

## **I Corinthians 4: 14-21 Don't Tell Me; Show Me! 12/1/2024**

Anything learned deeply is learned at many levels and experiences. Nothing beats "hands-on."

This is how Jesus trained the disciples. He spent much more time with them than with the crowds. At the end of His public ministry He spent even more time with them.

**I John 1:1-4** " Heard; seen; looked at; touched with our hands; the Life was manifested."

**Question:** If you had just 3 years to get out a message that would change the world for the utmost good, how would you do it?

**Question:** How did Jesus do it?

**Ex.** BB's in a coke bottle

Jesus, after spending the night in prayer, chose 12 men to be with Him. Luke 6/ Mark 3

He poured Himself into 12 men and spoke to the crowds "some" by comparison.

**He knew His greatest impact would come from living side-by-side with hand-picked men, day-by-day.**

The message of the gospel cannot just be broadcast; it must remain pure, uncompromised, and modeled before people.

**Proverbs 27:17** "as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

**Ex. Howard Hendrix and Chuck Swindoll.** Chuck had years of self-doubt and considered quitting ministry. Hendrix knew God would use Chuck greatly. Chuck said, "Hendrix believed in me when I did not even believe in myself."

God always wraps His truth in a person. That is the value of godly mentoring. **A mentor shows what biblical truth looks like with skin on it!**

You speed on in your walk at a rapid pace with face-to-face connections. Much like the moving sidewalk at the airport.

**Text Intro:** How much more so was Paul to the Corinthians as he truly was their spiritual father!

**4: 14-16** "admonish" Same word used in **Ephesians 6:4.** " And fathers do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction ( admonition) of the Lord."

**“countless tutors”**- paidagogas- Mainly baby-sitters. A tutor was a slave who escorted the master’s child to school or other activities. The term had a somewhat derogatory sense to it.

Paul was the one who brought them the gospel at great risk to his own life. He suffered greatly to protect and nurture them. Quite unlike the self-seeking, arrogant teachers in Corinth who wanted a following to build their own egos.

**Question:** Who was like a spiritual father to you?

**4:16 “be imitators of me”** – Not a following for his glory and then bragging rights for those who said, “I am of Paul.”

**I Corinthians 11:1** “ be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

Paul was not one to just dispassionately dispense information; he passionately lived the life and had confidence in God working in his daily life!

**Ephesians 5:1** “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you,,,”

It is one thing to say, “I am of Paul” and quite another to walk in his shoes. This “imitation” of his life would include, to some extent, the same suffering.

**4:17** Follow Paul’s lifestyle and thought patterns. **This is why he spends so much time describing how he felt and how he thought as he went through things.** You cannot just say, “This is correct, now just go do it.”

Ex. Romans 7/ 11 Corinthians 1: 8-10, 4: 8-12, 6:4-10, 11:12-33/ Philippians 3/ I Corinthians 4:9-13, and many other places.

He is putting skin on living out the Christian life! He is manifesting the life of Christ!

**4: 18 “arrogant”** - “ He sent Timothy so he must be afraid to come himself.”

**4: 19** the showdown is coming! They are about to witness real apostolic authority! Sometimes we forget who we are talking to and show disrespect!

**4: 19-20** The Kingdom of God is not a philosophical idea empowered by fine speech. There is no power in a speech designed to merely titillate the hearers then pass on to the next oratory blathering. The kingdom of God is an invasion! It takes captives ,and then sets them free to love Christ with real life-changing power different from anything this world will ever see!