

**“Four Marks of a Spiritual Father”
(1 Corinthians 4:14-21)**

Today we will consider Paul’s instruction and example of what it means to be a spiritual father. He gives us principles for parenting and also for caring for newer believers in Christ. A spiritual father...

CAUTIONS His Children (14)

- Not to **Shame**
- But to **Warn**

CARES for His Children (15)

- Not as an **Instructor**
- But as a **Father**

COMMUNICATES With His Children (16-17)

- By His Faithful **Example**
- By His Faithful **Teaching**

CHASTENS His Children (18-21)

- Exposes **the Problem**
- Exhorts **the Proud**

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Small Group/Family Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Share a special thought or memory of your father, something you appreciate or something you learned from him.

1. As a spiritual mentor who cares about the Corinthians, what is Paul warning them about in 1 Corinthians 4:6-21?
2. What are some wise words of caution that a godly father should impart to his children in 2023?
3. Why is it important that Paul makes a distinction between the many instructors and a father?
4. Is it arrogant for Paul to point to himself as the right example to follow? Explain.
5. How does Paul show “tough love” in verses 18-21? Try to restate verse 20 in your own words.

Small Group Prayer

Give thanks for your earthly father and pray for the some of the fathers and families in our church by name.

Action Steps

Who is a fellow believer that you look up to as a spiritual mentor or source of godly counsel? Ask for their thoughts this week about an issue with which you are grappling.

Who is someone to whom you can be a spiritual mentor, or at least a positive spiritual influence? Ask them how they are doing and if there is something you can pray for them this week.

Prayerfully consider initiating a regular mentoring/discipleship relationship with one or both of the people you mentioned above.

