THE MODEL DISCIPLE MAKER

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

10-1-2025

*** Follow the model disciple maker!**

We must have the characteristics that Paul had in his making of disciples.

3 Qualities (characteristics):

I. YOU NEED THE QUALITY OF AN HONEST STEWARD (v. 2-5)
(Paul's Motive)

An Honest Steward:

A. Tells The Truth With Boldness (V. 2)

An Honest Steward:

B. Tells The Truth With Right Motives (To Please God) (V. 3-4)

An Honest Steward:

C. Tells The Truth With Sincerity (V. 5)

II. YOU NEED THE QUALITY OF A GENTLE MOTHER (v. 6-9)
(Paul's Manner)

A. A Gentle Mother Is Not Burdensome (V. 6)

B. A Gentle Mother Shows Warm Affection (V. 7)

C. A Gentle Mother Shows Sacrificial Love (V. 8-9)

III. YOU NEED THE QUALITY OF A CONCERNED FATHER (V. 10-12)
(Paul's Method)

A. A Concerned Father Is Godly In His Walk (V. 10)
(He Sets The Proper Example)

B. A Concerned Father Is Serious In His Words (V. 11-12)
Be balanced with:
1. Exhortation (to affect the intellect)
2. Comfort (to affect the emotion)
3. Insistence (to affect the will)

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II. YOU NEED THE QUALITY OF A GENTLE (v. 6-9)
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INTRODUCTION:

Example of people who lack balance in their personalities. Some are rough (no compassion). Some are soft like sponges (no backbone). Some are strictly business-oriented.

Moses was meek, yet stern. David was tender-hearted, yet had firm convictions.

Jesus was perfectly balanced in His personality.

1) He was trustworthy in carrying out His Father's will. He would do His task, and nothing would interfere.

2) He was gentle when John lay on His bosom, when He dealt with the woman at the well.

3) He was stern when He turned over the money changers' tables and when He rebuked the Pharisees.

Paul said: "I will become all things to all men..."

2:1

"In vain" = hollow, empty. Paul is saying, "You know that when we came to you it was not <u>without results</u>. It was not a waste of time.

Paul, Timothy, and Silas had an effective ministry not only because of what they said, but because of what they were (their sincere character) and how they said it (their balanced personality).

We all want <u>effectiveness</u> in ministry. We don't want to labor in vain.

*** Follow the model disciple maker!**
We must have the characteristics that Paul had in his making of disciples.

(To influence others for God, you need a <u>Godly balance</u> in the way you deal with people)

(To be effective in your evangelism and discipleship, you must have the qualities that Paul had)

3 Qualities (characteristics):

1. Honest Steward (v. 2-5)
2. Gentle Mother (v. 6-9)
3. Concerned Father (v. 10-12)

A steward is duty oriented. His only concern is getting the job done right (ethically and honestly)

A mother is care oriented. She is careful how she treats people (particularly her children).

A father is training/discipline oriented. He is concerned about what he does, what he does with his children.

I. YOU NEED THE QUALITY OF AN HONEST STEWARD (v. 2-5)

(Paul's Motive)

The picture of "steward" comes from the words "put in trust" (v. 4)

A steward is one who is put in trust (in charge) with something. He owns nothing, but manages what belongs to His master (EX: Joseph, Gen. 39:1-6).

EX: Someone entrusted me recently with their car keys, house keys, money, etc., when they went into the hospital.

A steward is task-oriented. He has a job to do and he does it.

An Honest Steward:

A. TELLS THE TRUTH WITH BOLDNESS (V. 2)

V. 2

How do you know a man's message is real, sincere, honest?

When he can boldly declare it while undergoing opposition.

"Shamefully entreated" = to be treated like dirt, garbage; to be abused and insulted.

They were accused of "exceedingly troubling" the city of Philippi (Acts 16:20).

They were accused of teaching heresy; of teaching an anti-Roman government propaganda (16:21).

They were stripped naked and whipped in front of a multitude of people (16:22), and then were chained up in the Philippian jail (in the inner cell) (16:23-24).

All this was for doing right!

Yet this did not stop them from going into Thessalonica and preaching.

As stewards we have no choice but to guard and invest the Gospel for our Savior.

Our boldness (courage, liberty) to speak the Gospel does not come from ourselves. We are "bold in our God!"

"Contention" = Gk. (agony) Intense, agonizing effort

"Contention" = an athletic term describing a contest (cp. Phil. 1:30). Dedication (a spirit that won't quit) is necessary.

As stewards of the mystery of God (I Cor. 4:1). They were faithful!

An Honest Steward:

B. TELLS THE TRUTH WITH RIGHT MOTIVES (to please God) (v. 3-4)

V. 3

"Exhortation" - the word was used to encourage soldiers before going into battle and it was said that "encouragement" was necessary for hired soldiers, but for those who fight for life and country, no exhortation is required (Milligan)

Paul defends himself against charges that some made against him. When you do right people will accuse you falsely.

"Deceit" = to lead astray; lead into error

"Uncleanness" = impure (motives)

"Guile" = trickery. A bait or trap (any form of trick or strategy to capture someone)

"Guile" - describes the baiting of a hook. Paul didn't trap people into

getting saved.
ILLUS: of a clever salesman who traps someone into buying his product. Spiritual witnessing is not "Christian salesmanship."

"Salvation does not lie at the end of a clever argument or a subtle presentation. It is the result of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit (1:5; 2:13) (Wiersbe, p. 38).

The cultists are deceived and deceivers.

The New Age movement is loaded with deception.

V. 4

"Allowed" = to approve after testing.

ILLUS: Tests required before you can be hired for certain jobs.

Paul passed the tests that God gave and so God entrusted him with a great responsibility.

God has put you "in trust" with your Bibles, salvation, family, etc. How faithful are you?

The message of the Gospel is a treasure God has entrusted to us. We must not bury this treasure, but invest it for "spiritual dividends" (Wiersbe, p. 36).

You can please men with <u>externals</u>. But you can only please God if He approves of your <u>heart</u>.

An Honest Steward:

C. TELLS THE TRUTH WITH <u>SINCERITY</u> (V. 5)

V. 5

"Flattery" = slick eloquence, to persuade by insincere speech.

When you give the Gospel, don't <u>butter up</u> the person. Don't ever lie and tell people something about themselves that you really don't mean. Be sincere!

Don't stoop to use gimmicks. Be straight-forward with people. They will appreciate you for it!

I don't mean to be rude and crude, but be honest in a loving way.

David hated flattery (Ps. 12:2).

"A flatterer is one who manipulates, rather than communicates (Wiersbe, p. 39)

Don't appeal to a person's ego (Pride) but to their will.

"A cloak of coveteousness" = an overcoat that hides greed on the inside. A cover-up (pretext) to hide selfishness.

Some people are really good at covering up selfishness.

Be sincere! Be honest with people.

Honesty is not the best policy - it is the only policy for the Christian.

"God is witness" - when you can call on God to back up (defend) your heart motive, you know you are sincere.

"Cloak" - to put on something for appearance with a design to cover up. An outward show to hide internal selfishness.

Paul is saying: What you saw on the outside is what was in the inside.

Paul was not two-faced.

II. YOU NEED THE QUALITY OF A GENTLE MOTHER (v. 6-9)

(Paul's Manner)

The picture of a "mother" comes from v. 7.

A. A GENTLE MOTHER IS NOT BURDENSOME (V. 6)

V. 6

A good mother doesn't add burdens on her children; she lifts them off.

ILLUS: of parents who demand that their children wait on them hand and foot. Parents are to be honored, but anyone who has to demand honor is not worthy of it.

Paul didn't seek glory of men by saying: "I am the Apostle Paul, you are to serve me hand and foot.

(NOTE: The total contrast between Paul and the R.C.C. pope)

Paul was not a "hard-nosed", demanding, insistent that he gets everything his way on a silver platter.

As an apostle, he had the authority backing him up to make demands upon the believers (EX: provide financially for him).

B. A GENTLE MOTHER SHOWS WARM AFFECTION (V. 7)

V. 7

"But (in contrast to being burdensome) we were gentle"

When children want affection, who do they usually call for? "Mama"

Why? Mothers are softer, more tender. Not rough and abrupt like men (in general).

Men, we should have this quality of gentleness. Our Lord Jesus was (and is).

"Nurse" = nursing mother (breast-feeding mother)

"Cherisheth" = warms. In Dt. 22:6, it is used of a bird warming her eggs.

C. A GENTLE MOTHER SHOWS SACRIFICIAL LOVE (V. 8-9)

V. 8

"Affectionately desirous" = to feel a deep longing for someone. The word was used on a grave inscription describing the parents' sad yearning for their dead child. A deep affection.

EX: The feelings David had for his friend Jonathan

EX: The love of David who cried, "Oh Absolum, my son, my son Absolum, would to God I had died for thee."

In the last days people will be without natural affection (II Tim. 3)

"The love of many will wax cold."

But in Jesus we have a haven of rest! And in each other we should find the same thing.

"Imparted" = share with someone.

A nursing mother imparts her own life into her child. "You cannot be a nursing mother and turn your baby over to someone else. That baby must be in your arms, next to your heart."

The nursing mother eats the food, and it is transformed into milk for the baby. The mature Christian feeds on the Word of God and then shares its nourishment with the younger believers so they can grow (I Pet. 2:1-3).

A nursing baby can become ill through reaction to something the mother has eaten. The Christian who is feeding others must be careful not to feed on the wrong things himself (Wiersbe, p. 40).

"Souls" = lives. Sharing the Gospel is one thing, sharing your life is another. Sometimes you must share your life before someone will accept your Gospel.

"Because you were dear unto us" = lit. "because you became our own beloved."

Paul did not turn his converts over to babysitters; he made sacrifices for

them himself (Wiersbe, p. 39).

V. 9

EX: of a hard-working mother who sacrifices sleep, time, energy, etc., for the benefit of her children (cp. Prov. 31).

Now Paul gives proof that he wanted to share more than words.

He put his life into these people.

"Labor" = exhausting toil, sweat

"Travail" = painful, troublesome work (the kind of work that went against the flesh)

The ministry is worth all of the effort we put into it.

So as to not be accused of ministering for money (v. 5), Paul made tents while also ministering the Word (Acts 20:31).

III. YOU NEED THE QUALITY OF A CONCERNED FATHER (V. 10-12)

(Paul's Method)

The picture of "father" comes from v. 11.

A. A CONCERNED FATHER IS GODLY IN HIS WALK (V. 10)

(He sets the proper example)

V. 10

"Holily" = Paul fulfilled his duties with piety.

"Justly" = upright character (do right!)

"Unblamably" = they could not find fault in his character.

"Among you that believe" - Sometimes we may tend to watch ourselves around the lost so as not to offend them, but let our guard down among our brothers and sisters in Christ, thinking: "They understand."

Family should know you more closely, and they will. Don't live one way for the outside word and another way in front of your family (church).

B. A CONCERNED FATHER IS SERIOUS IN HIS WORDS (V. 11-12)

V. 11

Paul viewed himself as a Father to those he led to Christ (I Cor. 4:15; II Tim. 1:2).

Be balanced with:

1. Exhortation (to affect the intellect)

   V. 11

   "Exhorted" = - used of the Holy Spirit (the Comforter), Who would guide the disciples "into all truth."

2. Comfort (to affect the emotion)

   "Comforted" = to encourage, cheer up. (EX: You can do it! a positive attitude)

   Children get discouraged easily.

3. Insistence (to affect the will)

   "Charged" = to insist upon a certain attitude or behavior by giving proof, evidence, testimony.

EX: You must live your life this way because I know what will happen if you don't.

Paul used his personal experience with the Lord as an encouragement.

"Every one of you" = each one. Paul had a one-on-one relationship with the believers, like a father should to his children.

V. 12

Every child needs to learn how to walk. This was Paul's goal (aim, purpose) in teaching new converts.

You should not be satisfied for anything less than for yourself and others

to have a walk (lifestyle) that would be worthy of (match or be equal to) the character that God expects.

CONCLUSION:

No one likes someone who shoves the Gospel down their throat all the time with sternness.

On the other hand, no one respects a softy who will tell you whatever you want to hear.

We need to be balanced Christians in dealing with people.

1.You need the quality of an honest steward
2.You need the quality of a gentle mother
3.You need the quality of a concerned father

Just as children need their parents to have the balance of consistent honesty, loving gentleness, and a concern for discipline, those you minister to (especially new believers) will need the same thing. Balance!