

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

Paul DID NOT come to the Thessalonians

- V.3 – from error false teaching
 - V.3 – from impurity usually sexual impurity
 - V.3 – to deceive
 - V.4 – pleasing people
 - V.5 – with flattery
 - V.5 – for greed money
 - V.6 – seeking glory from people praise
 - V.6 – abusing his authority power
- Paul seems to repeat a similar message at other churches he establishes ([Acts 20:17-35](#))

Acts 20:17-35

- Paul explains how he tried to care of the church
- Paul gave everything to nurture the church (v.24) because he was imitating Christ
- He has reproduced himself into them
- Now it's their job as overseers (v.28) to do the same thing that Paul has done
- They need to carry on the imitating, discipling process and continue to nurture the church and protect it from false teachers
- Like a shepherd would protect it's flock

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- So the question is, how do we continue on that imitating process even today?
- How do we NOT act as false teachers, but as godly shepherds?
- What is the proper way to lead a church?

1 Thessalonians 2:7 – But we were **gentle** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

- Paul chooses the most intimate illustration I can think of, the care of a loving mother and father
- **Gentle** – **1 Timothy 3:1-3** - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of **overseer**, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an **overseer** must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but **gentle**, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
- **2 Timothy 2:24-25** - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 **correcting his opponents with gentleness**. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

2 Corinthians 10:1 – I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and **gentleness** of Christ...

- Paul is imitating Christ

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me**, for **I am gentle** and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- Overseers should be imitating Paul and Christ
- One way to be godly shepherds is to teach with **gentleness**, so that you can **learn from us**
- Overseeing in this manor lifts burdens from the flock, and our words, which are imitating Christ's words, help give you rest
- Because overseers have been through some suffering and have experienced how God has lifted their burdens in the past

1 Thessalonians 2:7 – But we were **gentle** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

Ephesians 4:1-2 – I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and **gentleness**, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

- This is exactly how you handle a nursing child
- Overseers need to shepherd the flock like a gentle mother taking care of her nursing child
- We need to show patience
- We need to bear with you in love

Isaiah 49:14-15 – But Zion said, The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.
15 **Can a woman forget her nursing child**, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

- This is a picture of the deep life-giving bond between a mother and child
- Learning to nurse can be stressful and frustrating, especially at the beginning
- The baby is tired and hungry and the mother feels like she can't do anything right
- Eventually you both figure it out, but it doesn't stop there
- The child needs to be constantly fed and taken care of at all times of the day
- The mother knows she's the one providing nourishment, so she sacrifices everything, including sleep, to provide care
- Can a mother forget that?
- Exhausted, frustrated, and tired with little moments of joy
- An overseer is to imitate this motherly love to the church
- It's relational, sacrificial, nourishing, patient, bearing in love, provide rest

1 Thessalonians 2:7 – But we were gentle among you, like a **nursing mother** taking care of her own children.

Galatians 4:18-19 – It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, 19 my little children, **for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!**

- Paul, and every overseers job, is not done after the nursing is complete
- Not only do you labor in the childbirth, then the nursing, but you continue laboring to bring the child to spiritual maturity

2 Peter 1:5-7 - For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; 6 to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; 7 to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 – **Having so fond an affection for you**, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. *(NASB)*

- **“Having so fond an affection for you”** – the motivation is love
- Just like God designed a mother to love her child, you should be able to recognize true and false teachers over you by their love for you
- They may not always be right, but they do always love

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- **“Impart”** – to give something you have to someone without losing it yourself
 1. Impart the gospel
 2. Impart yourself (soul)
- How do you impart yourself to someone?

2 Corinthians 6:11-13 - We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. 13 In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

- We don't just give the gospel, we give you our heart, wide open
- We share ourselves, our life, our personal stories
- In return, you need to open your heart

2 Corinthian 8:1-5 - We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among **the churches of Macedonia**, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, **but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.**

1 Thessalonians 2:9 – For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

- Paul continues to emphasize his sacrifice (like a nursing mother) by stating that he willingly worked a job, even working nights, to support himself
- So that he didn't have to take money and provisions from them to survive
- Paul had the right to be compensated for his work with the church
- But Paul was completely satisfied sacrificing his energy and sleep to ensure the Thessalonians would thrive

1 Timothy 5:17-18 - Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain, and, The laborer deserves his wages.

1 Corinthians 9:1-8

Deuteronomy 25:4 - You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.



1 Corinthians 9:1-8

Deuteronomy 25:4 - You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

- The Mosaic Law provided protection for the ox, but it was ultimately to protect the Israelite from being unjustly treated by the one who borrows the ox from him

1 Corinthians 9:9-15a.

- When Paul says it's not really about the oxen, he's pointing to a deeper reality
- Paul's love for them makes him willing to sacrifice a right he is entitled to just like a nursing mother does
- At the same time, the Corinthians should have a desire to provide for Paul
- Even if he ultimately rejects it

1 Thessalonians 2:9 – For you remember, brothers, our **labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you**, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 - Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in **idleness** and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to **imitate us**, because **we were not idle** when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with **toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you**. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but **to give you in ourselves an example to imitate**. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

- It's a call to join the fight
- Sacrificially invest (reproduce yourself) in someone else