

“Spiritual Fathers”
1 Corinthians 4:14-21

Personal notes

What does a Spiritual Fathers Do?

1. A Spiritual Father warns his spiritual children.

1 Corinthians 4:14 (ESV) “I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.”

1 Corinthians 4:14 (NIV) “I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children.”

2. A Spiritual father encourages his spiritual children.

1 Corinthians 4:16a (ESV) I urge you, then . . . “

1 Corinthians 4:16 (AMP) “So I urge and implore you. . . “

3. A Spiritual father sets an example for his spiritual children.

1 Corinthians 4:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶ . . . be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.”

1 Corinthians 11:1-2 (ESV) “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

4. A Spiritual father disciplines his spiritual children.

1 Corinthians 4:18-21 (ESV) “Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

²¹ What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?”

Hebrews 12:9-11 (ESV) ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Some Closing Suggestions....

*Thank God for your spiritual father/mother.

*Identify your spiritual father/mother today

*Begin thinking like a spiritual father/mother.