

Parental Pictures of Spiritual Leadership, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12.

B. The church is like a family. It is not to be taken care of by surrogate parents.

C. Spiritual leaders are stewards responsible for teaching truth and managing resources for the household. (1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Corinthians 3)

D. Spiritual leaders are like mothers and fathers for the church. (Galatians 4:19, 1 Corinthians 4:15)

II. They are gentle and not abusive like a nursing mother.

A. A mother has fond affection for her child.

B. There is endless watchful care.

C. Affection means to long for someone.

D. There is more than duty—there is passion.

III. They work night and day so as not to be a burden.

A. Paul worked so as not to have to depend upon those he preached the gospel to.

B. Spiritual leadership is around the clock care.

Application Questions:

1. Who is a model for you of loving the church with affection?

2. Why should spiritual leadership be known for the extra effort?

3. How can we develop spiritual leaders better in light of this passage? Explain.
