

A True Shepherd's Love

Parenting Advice from 1 Thessalonians 2:3-20

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First Thessalonians 2:3-20 is one of the richest and most intimate expressions of Paul in all his epistles. Open up your Bible and read it. Here we see the love of a true shepherd. Paul loved the people he was called to minister to so much that he referred to them as his children. He didn't just encourage them and tell them to be more like Jesus. He likened his love for the Thessalonians to that of a nursing mother and protective father. What love Paul had for the church!

We know this is the kind of love you have for your millennial. Giving all the dilemmas parents face and the difficult questions that pile up each day, we wanted to summarize (and apply to parenting) 1 Thessalonians 2 to embolden you to keep reinforcing biblical truth in your child's life.

Life Lessons from the Apostle Paul:

1. Be careful that your parenting is not deceptive (v. 3).
2. Be faithful in your stewardship as a parent. You have been entrusted as a parent and called to preach the gospel to your family (v. 4).
3. Be sincere in your commitment. Make sure you don't choose money or fame over family (v. 5).
4. Be humble. Don't allow the praise of man to compromise your relationship with God and your family (v. 6).
5. Be gentle and patient in understanding. Seek opportunities to immerse your millennial in the teachings of Jesus (v. 7).
6. Be affectionate and willing to make sacrifices for your family (v. 8).
7. Be a good example of a hard worker who isn't a burden to anyone (v. 9).
8. Be blameless in your family (v. 10).
9. Be consistent in encouraging, comforting, and exhorting your millennial to live worthy of God, not you (vv. 11-12).