

## Like a Family – 1 Corinthians 4.14-21

“Family;” What comes to mind when the word is spoken, family? For some, this has negative, for others, positive connotations. Family is also a word that we use with regards to the church. This is our spiritual family. This is a term loosely used, though not practiced. Yet as we shift our view of what the church should do as we journey thru 1 Cor, let us also shift how we view the Family of God.

Paul’s writing uses the family picture. He is the father, though there are other teachers, the readers are the children and Timothy is the big brother. And yet, we have a progression as a family. Think back to when you lived with your parents. Ever fathom being where you are today? Ever really play scenarios in your mind about being a mom, dad, grandparent or even great grandparent?

- 1. We start as children, \*become disciples**
  - a. Are fed simpler foods
  - b. Are taught by example
  - c. Are instructed numerous times.
  - d. Tend to fight with one another.
- 2. Then become big brother, sister \* become mentors, helpers**
  - a. Assisting parent, Kael helps get drinks, ready for rides
  - b. Teaches what he has learned to his siblings
  - c. Have more responsibilities.
- 3. Finally becoming parents. \* starts bringing people to faith.**
  - a. Granted that God alone is our father, yet Paul’s paternity comes from helping someone come to the Lord.
  - b. Such a role, something we strive for, hope for.

Conclusion:

Which category do you fall in?

None of these are about Lordship. It is about serving, placing needs of others ahead of self. The progression is no different than what we already know. But it takes a willingness. It takes all of us.

If you are child, that’s ok. Be there, but thirst for more. Thirst for growth. Unlike our families, we can grow at whatever speed we desire. We do so by wanting to spend time with this family. We spend time with this book. We strive to live like He did. Then we shall be like a growing family.