

Title: **"TIMOTHY - MY BELOVED AND FAITHFUL SON IN THE LORD"**

Text: **1 Corinthians 4:17, Philippians 2:19-23**

(I) THE ROLE OF A SPIRITUAL FATHER

1. Rarely fulfilled then and today

"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers..." 1 Corinthians 4:15

- a) Many instructors
- b) Few spiritual fathers

2. Some Features of his role

- a) To regard members as his spiritual children

"For in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." 1 Corinthians 4:15

- b) To be an excellent role model that others can imitate

"Therefore I urge you, imitate me." 1 Corinthians 4: 16

- c) To warn and correct

"I do not write these things to shame you but as my beloved children I warn you." 1 Corinthians 4:14

(II) THE RESPONSES OF SPIRITUAL SONS

1. The positive responses of Timothy

"Who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord..." 1 Corinthians 4:17

- a) Faithful in the Lord
- b) Trustworthy and reliable enough to be sent out

"For this reason I have sent Timothy to you...who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every Church." 1 Corinthians 4:17

- i) To help the Church imitate Paul
- ii) To remind the Church of Paul's ways in Christ

2. The negative responses of the Corinthian Church

- a) Not faithful sons
- b) Plagued by the problem of arrogance (**1 Corinthians 4:6**)
- c) Fighting against each other (**1 Corinthians 4:6**)
- d) Some had no regard for Paul (**1 Corinthians 4:18**)

(III) THE COMMENDATION OF PROVEN SPIRITUAL SONSHIP

1. Outstanding oneness of mind and soul

*"For I have no one like-minded..." **Philippians 2:20***

2. Sincerely caring for others

*"Who will sincerely care for your state." **Philippians 2:20***

3. Proven character

*"But you know his proven character..." **Philippians 2:21***

- a) In Serving together

*"That as a son with his father, He served with me in the gospel" **Philippians 2:22***

- b) In being bondservants of the Lord Jesus

*"Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,..." **Philippians 1:1***

(IV) THE PRACTICE OF GOOD SPIRITUAL SONSHIP IN SERVICE

1. Understanding the role of spiritual fathers

2. Seeking to respond well as spiritual sons

- i) Be faithful
- ii) Be obedient

3. Proving ourselves to be good spiritual sons

4. Serving together as sons with our spiritual fathers