

## **LETTERS TO LEADERS**

**BY**

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1 Cor 4:15 "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers:..."

As leaders in the body of Christ we are called to reflect the image of God the Father to His people. This is a tall order. In fact it is impossible without the Holy Spirit doing it through us. Yet we must call on him to do it through us and expect that he will.

God our heavenly father knows we need help to know him. That is one reason He sent his son Jesus Christ, in the likeness of sinful flesh, not as some smoky mirage. Likewise, Jesus did not leave us hopeless, but sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and reveal the image of God through us.

If we were more mature and yielded to the Holy Spirit, His image in us would be more obvious. If others were more mature, they would more easily see Jesus in us. However, there are many things that "cloud the picture" that we must overcome.

First of all, the word father is defined in our minds and heart by our natural experience more than the Biblical definition or spiritual experience. Generally speaking, our life experience often leaves us with a negative image of a father. The most common complaint is "my father wasn't loving". Well, no earthly father is as loving as our heavenly father. We, however, measure our fathers love by our definition of love and often this means "I was not allowed to have my own way."

Of course, there are those horrible and extreme examples of earthly fathers abusing their sons and daughters, and this experience makes it nearly impossible of us to understand our heavenly Father. However, deliverance and comfort are provided through the cross of Jesus Christ. We, as leaders, must let the Holy Spirit flow through us to minister to those who have had such negative extremes of fatherhood.

In the last letter to leaders I referred to Mt 19:14, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: for such is the kingdom of heaven."

Leaders have a golden opportunity to help God's people have a Biblical image of the heavenly Father, by yielding to the Holy Spirit and letting the image of our heavenly Father shine through us.

His love

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