

1 Corinthians 4:1-21  
Series – United in Grace  
Message – Imitating Those Who Imitate Christ  
October 13, 2024  
Fifth Reformed Church  
Rev. Jon Sherrill

### **The Proper Image for Church Leadership**

- 1 Corinthians 4:1
- The proper image for any church leader is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mark 10:45
- Testing Peter

### **Confronting Improper Local Leadership**

- 1 Corinthians 4:6-13
- “Do not go beyond what is written.”
  - 1 Peter 5:1-3 is one example
  - Shepherds, Servants, Examples
- Grace-based Humility
- A cut above the Apostles?

### **Spiritual Parenting: The Biblical Metaphor of Discipling**

- 1 Corinthians 4:14-17
- The last time the word “disciple” is used in the NT is Acts 21:4. How can that be!?!?
- Discipling is a uniquely Jewish thing.
- The Apostles use a different metaphor to describe the process of investment known to Jewish people as discipling. That metaphor is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

- *Paidagogous* – \_\_\_\_\_, instructor, or tutor (pedagogical)
- Teachers offer information. Parents offer a \_\_\_\_\_ to imitate.

### Marks of Spiritual Parents

1. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ – They cultivate spiritual character, knowing they can only parent others spiritually from their relationship with God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – They submit to the Father’s authority as Jesus did and set aside personal agendas to bless and grow those they are spiritually parenting.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ – They sacrifice of themselves for the good of those they are spiritually parenting.

### **How will you respond to God’s word today?**

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### **Reflection Questions**

1. Who is spiritually parenting you?
2. Who are you spiritually parenting?
3. Do you feel qualified to serve as a spiritual parent?
4. What needs to happen to get you to a place of comfort in saying to another person, “Follow me in so far as I follow Christ”? Ask those in your group to give you honest feedback on whether that is a realistic expectation.
5. How might Paul’s acknowledgment in Romans 7 help you as you consider spiritually parenting others?
6. What captured your attention in the scripture or message?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What are you going to do about it?