

Sunday, June 21, 2020
Two “Fathers” in the New Testament
Text: 1 Corinthians 4:14 - 21

1. There Is a Difference Between a Guide and a Father:

1 Corinthians 4:15, *“For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”*

1.1) Guide or tutor

Galatians 3:24, *“So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.”*

1.2) Father

Metaphor: the originator and transmitter of anything; one who stands in a father's place and looks after another in a paternal way

Strong's G3962; from the root, pa; literally nourisher, protector, upholder

1.3) Guide vs. Father

Guide tends to be a short-term commitment until certain objectives or missions are achieved.

Father is a life commitment of relationship characterized by walking together.

2. The Example of Barnabas:

2.1) Barnabas introduced to us in Acts 4:36 - 37 *“Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, (37) sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.”*

2.2) Barnabas the encourager:

Acts 11:25 – 26 - brings Paul to Antioch

Acts 11:27 – 30 - Barnabas and Paul take relief offering to Jerusalem

Acts 13:2 - Barnabas and Saul (Paul) set apart for the gospel

Acts 15:1 – 2 - Barnabas and Paul sent to Jerusalem re: Gentile believers

2.3) Barnabas fathers John Mark:

Acts 12:12 and Colossians 4:10

Acts 13:13 - Mark leaves Barnabas and Paul

Acts 15:37 – 39 - Barnabas and Paul separate over Mark

2 Timothy 4:11 *“Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.”*

1 Peter 5:13 - Peter refers to Mark as his son

Mark is the author of the Gospel of Mark!!!

Barnabas' focus seems to be people!

3. The Example of Paul: 1 Timothy 1:1 – 7

3.1) Paul, like a good father, continues to coach Timothy

3.2) Paul, like a good father, sends Timothy on assignment:

1 Thessalonians 3:2 Paul sends Timothy to Thessalonica

Acts 19:2 - Paul sends Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia

1 Corinthians 4:17 - Paul sends Timothy to Corinth

1 Timothy 1:1 – 7 - Paul leaves Timothy at Ephesus

Paul seems to be more task focused!

Conclusion:

Proverbs 22:6, *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*