



More Than Words

Sermon Series on 1 Thessalonians

September - November 2009

This Book Belongs to _____

“The Right Approach”

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Introduction

You don't get to pick if you're a brother or sister or an only child...you inherit that role when you're born. It's the same way when you're “born again” or become a Christian – you inherit brothers and sisters.

However, we do have the choice about becoming a mother, friend or father.



Our study together this week focuses on four approaches we can take as we interact with others. Paul uses these analogies to describe his own personal ministry. One of the roles we don't have a choice about (brother/sister). The other three are optional...unless you intend to be a person of influence. If you want to influence others in a positive way, these roles aren't really a choice or an option; rather, they are a relational strategy.

The key is understanding authentic use of relational tactics. No one wants to be “worked.” They do, on the other hand, appreciate the benefit that comes from relational intentionality (people intentionally working to benefit others according to their needs).

Sermon Notes

If you want to have relational _____ when dealing with people, you have to be more _____ than you are _____.

This must be done with _____, _____ and without _____.

Paul describes his ministry/relationship with the Thessalonians with four metaphors:

- _____ mother (cares & loves)
- _____ friend (shares)
- _____ brother (dives in)
- _____ father (exhorts)

Note: We cannot see _____, we can only observe _____.

Your Own Thoughts

Small Talk

If you had to say one person in your life has influenced you the most, would it be your mother, your father, a friend or a sibling? Why has this person had such a great impact on your life?

Text Talk

1. Why did Paul consider their trip to Thessalonica a success?

2. Paul defends their work in verses 3-6. Based on these verses, why did Paul believe their work should be above reproach/questioning?

3. The fact that Paul is defending his ministry gives us insight to what reality?

Life Talk

1. Paul describes four approaches/metaphors that describe his ministry:

- A nurturing mother that gently loves.
- A friend who shares not only God's word, but shares life.
- A brother who dives in and works side-by-side with you.
- A father who encourages, comforts and urges.

If you were to describe your natural approach to most relationships, of these four, what is your usual approach?

2. When you think of these four metaphors (mother, friend, brother, father), what kind of situation demands the use of each of these? For example, when does a person need you to be more of a “nurturing mother” than an “urgent father”?

3. In your life right now, which of these approaches would be most effective with you personally?

Beyond Talk

On your blank chart (provided below), write down four people/situations that need you to take an intentional approach and why you believe this approach is best.

Relational Approaches

I need to be a nurturing influence for. . .	I need to be a friend who shares my life with . . .	I need to dive in and work alongside . . .	I need to be an encourager for. . .
because they...	because they...	because they...	because they...

**15555 15th Avenue NE
Shoreline, WA 98155
www.nwchurch.net
206.364.2275**