

“How to Invest in Others”

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Have you ever heard a child scream, “He pushed me first!”?

- So many of our relationships are “transactional.” “If you are nice to me I will be nice to you.” “If you are naughty to me I will be naughty to you.”

The problem is that transactional relationship styles don’t work and don’t help.

Genuine investment in other people requires:

...boldness to reach out and to speak even when we have been hurt. (vv 1, 2)

...speaking from a heart for others and for pleasing God. (vv 3, 4)

...the gentleness of a nursing mother and the exhortation of a truthful father. (vv 5-11)

These investments result in people with a lifestyle that is worthy of God. (v 12)

Core Truth: Our sacrificial focus on others...helps them to lifestyles worthy of God.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Core Truth: Our sacrificial focus on others...helps them to lifestyles worthy of God.

Each day this week please read: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- **Today.** Please reflect on the ways that you are “transactional” in your relationship style and choices. Are there relationship styles and choices that you need to confess to God and to others?
- **Monday.** When you have been hurt in relationship by another person what is your personal “conflict relationship style” or “back-up relationship style?” Why is it hard to reach out to someone after you have been hurt?
- **Tuesday.** In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 where was Paul’s heart focused? What is the evidence for this and how do we get this in our own hearts?
- **Wednesday.** What is the meaning of relating to others with the gentleness of a nursing mother? What are the applications?
- **Thursday.** What is the meaning of relating to others with the exhortation of a truthful father? What are the applications?
- **Friday.** What does a “lifestyle worthy of God” look like? How would you assess your own lifestyle in this regard? What could you envision in your own life if you were living a “lifestyle worthy of God?” What do you envision in the lives of your family members and friends in this regard?
- **Saturday.** In preparation for tomorrow please read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org (Quick Menu / Connect / Sermon Based Small Group Material).