

## Faithful Children: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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**Key Truth:** Four unique features of the Church enable the children of God to maintain a consistent walk in the ways of Christ.

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Is the Church just another movie theater, community center, or non-profit organization? Or is there something unique and even necessary about the Church that cannot be quantified using the regular metrics of our physical world? As we look at this passage of Scripture, we see that Paul transitions to a new topic. As he does, he shows us four unique characteristics of the Church that indicate that the Church is both unique and necessary in our world.

### ***DISCUSS***

Read **1 Corinthians 4:6-13**: In what ways have we unwittingly trained the general public to view the Church as a “non-essential business?”

### ***DIG IN***

#### **1. The Church is formed as a Loving Relationship.** (vv. 14-15)

Do you agree with the statement that NO other human organization is formed as a loving relationship? Why or why not?

Paul considered himself as the Corinthians’ spiritual father. He demonstrated that by sacrificing for them and by admonishing them not to go astray. Why is spiritual fatherhood needed in our world?

#### **2. The Church engages in Active Discipleship.** (vv. 16-17)

In your own words, define “active discipleship.” Why must discipleship be active?

According to verse 17, why did Paul choose to send Timothy to the Corinthians?

#### **3. The Church is fueled by Gospel Power.** (vv. 18-20)

The Gospel is the verbal message of God’s saving grace brought about through faith in Jesus Christ. But the Gospel is not just a lot of talk. The Gospel is power (see Romans 1:16). In what ways is this power manifest in the world (see 1 Corinthians 1:18, 2:1-5)?

Why is the power of the gospel impossible to measure using physical systems of measurement?

#### **4. The Church thrives on Fatherly Discipline.** (v. 21)

Paul assumes that discipline in the Church would be carried out in love (compare v. 14 with v. 21). Why does discipline need the love of a father? Have you seen examples of unloving discipline? What is the difference?

Why is fatherly discipline necessary in the Church and the world?

### ***DO***

Of the four unique characteristics mentioned above, which do you think is the least evident in our world? How should that be renewed in the Church for the benefit of a lost world?