

#3 Who are Spiritual Parents

Unity of Generations - **Malachi 4:6** And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers,

God is looking to bridge the gap between generations through Spiritual Parenting.

Biblical examples

- **Moses & Joshua** - assistant and successor. Moses changes his name from Hoshea to Joshua
- **Eli & Samuel** - 1 Samuel 3:16 then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am.
- **Naomi & Ruth** - Ruth 1:16 for where you go, I will go, and where you sleep, I will sleep. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God.
- **Elijah & Elisha** - 2 Kings 2:11 Then Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven. ¹² And Elisha was watching *it* and he was crying out, "My father, my father
- **Paul & Timothy** - 1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, *my true child in the faith* 2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my beloved son
- **Paul & Titus** - Titus 1:4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith
- **Paul & Onesimus** - Philemon 10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment, ¹¹ who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.
- **Paul & Galatians** - Galatians 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you
- **Paul & Philippians** - Philippians 4:1 ¹whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved
- **Paul & Thessalonians** - 1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children.
2:11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
- **Paul & Corinthians** - 1 Corinthians 4:14 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For if you were to have countless **tutors** in Christ, yet *you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.* ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, be imitators of me.

tutors - Paidagōgos pahee-dag-o-gos'	N o u n	Supervision & Rules	Temporary, strict, external management by a servant.
Fathers - Patēr pat-ayr'	N o u n	Identity & Legacy	Permanent, authoritative, loving lifelong bond.
Father - Gennaō ghen-nah'-o	V e r b	The Act of Giving Life	The foundational moment of origin and creation.

Where a tutor (guardian) enforces rules, a father passes down a **legacy, a name, and an inheritance!**

Paul, using his training as a Pharisee, could confidently tell others to follow his example.

- He _____ them
 - Jesus
 - Money
 - Relationships
 - Marriage
 - Family
 - Servants
 - Church

- He _____ them

- He _____ them

- He _____ them

- He _____ them

- He _____ them
- He _____ them

What are the common objections and/or issues each generation has with the one those that came before them and those that came after them?

Deuteronomy 6:6 “And these words which I command you today **shall be in your heart.**

- You shall teach them diligently to your children,
- and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
- when you walk by the way,
- when you lie down,
- and when you rise up.
- You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,
- and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
- You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The power of the dinner table - Don't just be near, be WITH!

You are God's fragrance, the perfume of heaven. Those around you should be drawn to you because of the presence of God in you. Radiate the presence of God!

It's only awkward if you make it awkward. **Don't make it awkward!**