

Mother's Day:

The Need For Nurture

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 05/08/2016



I. Unbalanced Relationships

II. Apostolic Investment

1st Thessalonians 2:7-8

v. 7

Gentleness

v. 8

Fully Engaged

III. Giving & Receiving Nurture

Personal Reflection

Set aside fifteen minutes this week to pray & respond to the following:

Throughout the past year we have been reminded that God created us to be in community—first with Him & also with one another. Community is the result of mutual commitment to relationships. One important aspect of any significant relationship is nurture—caring for & encouraging the growth of others.

Jesus Christ is masterful in His exercise & modeling of nurture. As His followers, we too must be committed to caring for others. We need to be nurturers because God uses nurturing to break our selfish nature & reveal His love through us. By giving love & sacrificing for others, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus who loved & gave of Himself completely.

We need to be nurtured because we require love, encouragement & growth. In most circumstances, the love of a mother is the first encounter one has with nurture. In the context of this intimate & most fundamental of human relationships, we first experience gentleness & tenderness. In time, God reveals that He is the perfect embodiment of these & all other virtues. In His offer of redemption through the sacrifice of Christ, the human need to be nurtured & the strength to mature is realized.

Who are the recipients of your nurture? Are you aware of God's relentless & unwavering love for you? Does the assurance of His love for you motivate & empower you to care for & encourage growth in others?

Prayerfully thank God for His abiding & ongoing nurture in your life. Ask Him to soften your heart to the needs of others & ask Him for empowering to nurture them for His glory & your joy.