

## Series- Sharing Yourself and Your Faith

### Sharing as a Nursing Mother – based on love

#### I Thessalonians 2:5-9

##### Model for sharing our faith

*Paul defends himself against false accusations that his motives were selfish and that his methods were deceitful*

He does so with illuminating pictures *A mother gently caring for her children*

The service/ministry of a mother caring for her babies is

Selfless, Gentle and Willing – without adding burdens

#### I. A ministry marked by Selflessness

5-6

##### A. Not based upon flowery words – flattery

*Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hates its victims, and flattering words cause ruin.*

Mothers don't serve with flattery

Flattery is selfish – wanting others to love us

##### B. Not based on personal gain – greed

Literally a cloak of covetousness – to gain personal advantage

No thought of what I get out of this

##### C. Not based on desire for praise or approval – ambition

Not from her children

Nor from others

##### D. Not based on authority – power

Paul was an apostle appointed by God

Mothers have a right over children

#### II. A ministry marked by Gentleness

7

##### A. Gentle – some manuscripts say “babe”

The idea is harmless not forceful

*I Peter 3:16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.*

##### B. Motherly care

1. Nourishing - feeding the Word of God *Romans 10:17*

*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

2. Caring – literally keeping warm (protecting)

As Christ care for His church *Ephesians 5:29*

##### C. A ownership mentality – “for her own children”

We have a responsibility to those God has given into our spear of influence

#### III. A ministry marked by willingness

8

##### A. Giving life

Based on a deep love – like a mother's love

Two words used.

1. “a fond affection” *“to have a strong affection for, a yearning after,”*

2. “Very dear” *mostly translated beloved – used by God for His Son Jesus*

Not because of performance or rewards -Sacrificial

##### B. Willingly – literally “we were well pleased”

Not out of duty or begrudgingly

#### IV. A Ministry without adding burdens

9

##### A. Unlimited in time

Day and Night - Mothers do not have set times

We are never off-duty

##### B. Labor

– this word speaks of manual labor. Winning souls for Christ takes effort – we are called to be “fishers of men”, “soldiers” and ‘Farmers’ All include strenuous effort and long hours  
It takes time and effort

##### C. Hardship

- this word speaks more of emotional and mental effort. Time spent in prayer, counseling and encouraging

#### The Ultimate Pattern – Christ's care for us

Selfless – *Matthew 20:28*

Gentle – “The lamb of God” *Matthew 11:29*

Willing – *John 10:18a and John 10:11*

Did not burden us - *Matthew 11:28*

#### Lessons for those who would win souls

1. Our life must be surrendered - Christlike

2. The gentleness of Christ must be our approach

3. Our efforts must emanate from a love for the lost

The sinner – not the sin

4. It will take great effort and much time.

What are we willing to give that others may come to faith?

5. It is only possible if we love others like Christ loved us

Picture the love of a mother for her child