#1 - A Dad's <u>Devotion</u>, I Thessalonians 2:9

Paul, speaking as the spiritual father of these believers, reminds the believers in Thessalonica, how devoted he was to their spiritual care through his sacrificial work. Key words in this verse are "labor," "hardship," "working night and day."

A dad that makes a difference will demonstrate how devoted he is to his family.

#2 - A Dad's <u>Integrity</u>, I Thessalonians 2:10

Your children are more likely to model in their lives the actions they see in yours, than the words you proclaim.

Paul uses three different words in this verse to describe a life marked with integrity. Now, while the NASB translates these words as "devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly;" most other English translations use the words "holy, righteous and blameless."

The apostles called on their readers and God to bear witness to their behavior in both action and motive.

> **"Holy"** Their inner convictions led to devout conduct.

> **"Righteous"** With reference to God's objective standard their behavior was righteous, measuring up to what God expects and requires.

> **"Blameless"** Their conduct was unreproachable, able to stand their critics' scrutiny because it was right.

A dad that makes a difference leads a life, like that of the apostle Paul, which is character-

ized with devout conduct; living up to God's standards/what God expects; and, living in such a way where no one can level a legitimate charge that your walk is different than your talk.

#3 - A Dad's <u>Teaching</u>, I Thessalonians 2:11-12

The key aspects of teaching are:

Exhorting: These are strong, positive appeals. "To give urgent advice, recommendations, or warnings."

Encouraging: This is soothing encouragement, designed to cheer up and to inspire correct behavior

Imploring/urging/charging: This is solemn, earnest entreaty; or, a solemn declaration of the truth.

A dad that makes a difference by teaching his children through positive appeals; soothing encouragement and solemn declarations of the truth.