

Remnant Life Church
August 25, 2013

Child-Like
Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." (New Living Translation)

Mark and Luke add – "...*anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.*"

- Children in the first century Jewish culture
 - Patriarchal society
 - Women took care of the home and family
 - Children were seen and not heard
 - Boys were held in higher regard and at the age of 13 were deemed accountable
 - Apprentice through teens and 20's
 - At 30 the man has reached maturity and is accorded full authority and respect
- (Jesus began His ministry at the age of 30)
- There are elements of a child and being a child that are completely unique
 - A child will say anything to anyone at any time at any volume
 - A child gives love quickly and freely
 - A child is completely resilient with boundless energy
 - A child has a way of keeping life in perspective
 - When Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven belonged to people like the children He did not mean-
 - Immature
 - Whiney
 - Selfish
 - Stubborn
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 - We should all desire to be child-like in our attitude and outlook on life
 - Virtually every negative behavior of life is learned
 - Children have a measure of wisdom (**read list**)
 - **What child-like behaviors should we as adults strive to have as a part of our lives?**
1. **Honesty** – children are brutally honest about things adults will avoid
 - a. The scriptures speak of honesty, truthfulness and against deceitfulness nearly 170 times

- b. Proverbs, Isaiah and Zechariah it says very clearly, "Speak the truth"
- c. The 10 Commandments – do not lie; do not bear false witness
- d. We have come to the place where we even lie to ourselves about whether we are being honest
 - i. Sparing their feelings
 - ii. Being kind to them
 - iii. Don't want to escalate an already bad situation
 - iv. Protecting myself (husbands)
 - v. White lie (**Jesses Duplantis story**)
- e. The problem is that when we become used to these "white lies" it becomes easier and easier to believe things about each other, God's promises and even about ourselves that are not true

2. Love in the purest sense

- a. *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.* (Mark 12:30-31)
- b. How can we love our neighbors when we don't love ourselves most often make our love conditional?
- c. Each of us is loved beyond what we could even imagine or believe
 - i. *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;... (Jer. 1:5)*
 - ii. Knew (Ya-deh) –in the original language one aspect is to know by experience
- d. What endures? *"...Faith, hope and love but the greatest of these is love."* (I Cor. 13)

3. Live life to the fullest

- a. We are given only some much time to live (Ecc. 3:2)
- b. Why do we insist on wasting so much of it concerned over things that just don't matter very much? (Majoring on the minors)
- c. Don't take ourselves so seriously
- d. Little League – kids love it but parents are most often the only problem

4. Keep a proper balance and perspective on your life

- a. Children get very high and can get very low but the next day is brand new
 - i. Only adults hold grudges
 - ii. True love keeps no record of wrongs (I Cor. 13:5)
- b. Can our perspective become one that is tied to what God wants for our lives rather than what we want?
 - i. Not just children
 - ii. My experience at Messiah
- c. An important aspect of balance and perspective is trust

- Do we trust God in our lives to be who He says He is and do what He says He will do?
- *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*
(2Cor 1:20)
 - Receiving God's promises often takes our participation
 - Only in child-like faith can we live in a way that will not take us to a place that we do not belong – behind or ahead of God in His will
- The great men and women of the Bible had child-like faith (Heb. 11)
- Jesus had the most child-like faith of all!