Become As Little Children (Part 3)

Today, we will conclude our study of Matthew 18:1-4 by considering three more qualities by little children that are to be emulated.

4. Become Like Little Children By Manifesting A Forgiving Spirit

Young children are perhaps more forgiving than they will be at any other time in their lives. They forgive quickly, often without being asked. Little children just do not hold grudges, and this is an attribute that many adults desperately need to cultivate. We need to be like Christ and like children in our willingness to forgive others. Jesus had this forgiving attitude even toward the wicked men who crucified Him! “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Jesus, while teaching us to pray stated – “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matt. 6:12). In fact, our forgiveness from God depends upon our willingness to forgive each other (Matt. 6:14,15). If we behave as little children do, and as Christ does, we will not hold grudges, and we will be eager to forgive others when they repent (Luke 17:3). Jesus had a forgiving spirit and so do children. Do you?

5. Become Like Little Children By Loving Indiscriminately.

Little children love others without discrimination, and so does Jesus. Children don’t start hating others until they are taught to do so (either directly or indirectly). Jesus loves everyone, even sinners. Romans 5:8 teaches – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” God loves us so much that He was willing to send Jesus to die for all the world (John 3:16). God wants us to be like little children and show our love for all. He wants us to love Him (John 14:15), He wants us to love one another (John 13:34), and He wants us to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44)! Jesus and little children are known for their great love. Are you?


Little children are humble. They are not naturally arrogant, but they do learn it quickly from others. Christ was also humble. He “Made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant...He humbled Him-self and became obedient to the point of death, even the death on the cross” (Phil. 2:7,8). Jesus taught humility by washing the feet of His disciples (John 13). He expects us to be humble like Him and like little children. Our Lord declared in Mark 9:35 – “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.” Our Lord pronounced a blessing upon the humble in Matthew 5:3 as well as 18:4 – “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven...Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” James also taught – “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (James 4:10).

Jesus was humble and little children are humble. Are you?

If you’re a Christian, you need to develop these attributes. Jesus has them and you had them at one time, when you were a little child. If you are lacking in these attributes now, pray for them and consciously labor to add them to your life. The Lord expects you to do so, if you want to live with Him in glory!

Donald