

## The Person & Work of God the Son

### Study 8

As a young adult you've probably had someone say to you at some point in your life, "*stop being so childish!*" Yet Jesus calls us to be like *children* in our faith. Seems like a contradiction. So, this evening we're going to study how to become both spiritually mature and childlike in our faith!

#### 1) Children

Jesus & little children...

"Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:13-16

What does Jesus mean when He said that we must "*receive the kingdom of God as a little child*"?

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What's the difference between being *childish*, and *childlike*?

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#### 2) Children are not threatening

If we are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and represent Him correctly, then the world must be no more threatened by us than they would be of a child! That's the point Jesus made when He told us:

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and **harmless as doves.**" ~ Matthew 10:16

How does living out our faith in such a way that no one feels threatened by us open opportunities to share the Gospel with others?

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Does being “*harmless as doves*” mean that Christians are not supposed to protect themselves and their loved ones from evil people? Explain your answer

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3) Children are not naturally biased

It’s been observed that children are not born biased toward others, rather that prejudice is something that is taught. Give some examples that demonstrate Jesus’ impartiality toward people.

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Martin Luther King once said, “*the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning.*” Do you think this is still true? Explain your answer.

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How can childlike faith breakdown racial prejudice in the Church?

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4) Children are not under the Law

In Judaism a child is considered innocent and not accountable to keep the Law of Moses. So, when Jesus said that we must “*receive the kingdom of God as a little child*”, He inferred that His followers must live out their faith by His grace—not by works.

Why then is it so difficult for many adults to believe that God has really forgiven them?

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How does childlike faith help you to walk in God’s grace and not become legalistic in the practice of your faith?

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