

# BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN

## INTRODUCTION:

1. To so many, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year.
2. It is not the time of the birth of Jesus – nor do we have authority for celebrating such an event, especially in a religious sense.
3. Yet, Christmas is a wonderful time for children.
  - a. The excitement of anticipation
  - b. The joy of Christmas morning
4. As adults, we find joy in experiencing Christmas through the eyes of our children.
5. Hopefully, it brings out the child in each of us and keeps us young at heart.
  - a. Erma Bombeck wrote: “There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake on Christmas morning and not be a child.”
  - b. This is not about age, but about attitude!
6. The Bible teaches lessons that are to be learned from the hearts of children...

## I. BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN IN HUMILITY (MATTHEW 18:1-6)

- A. When the disciples asked who was greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus answered by pointing them to a little child.
- B. Children are an example in humility.
  1. When Jesus called the little child, it came to Him.
  2. Children recognize their dependence upon others.
  3. Children are not afraid to ask for help.
  4. Children demonstrate complete trust in their fathers.
- C. The disciples of Jesus were trying to elevate themselves to positions of greatness.
  1. While they were not afraid to ask for help, they did not always accept the instruction given.
  2. Men often seek to deny their dependence upon others, especially God (cf. Luke 22:31-34).
  3. Thus, they often trust in themselves instead of trusting their Father.
- D. They were to convert (turn) and become as little children.
  1. This means to turn away from their former way of thinking and acting.
  2. They must learn to humble themselves as little children (1 Kings 3:7; Jeremiah 1:6-7).
- E. Furthermore, they were to receive others who displayed this same attitude of humility.

## II. BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN IN OBEDIENCE (MATT. 19:13-15; MK. 10:13-15)

- A. There are several important details to notice in this passage.
  1. Parents wanted to bring their children to Jesus!
  2. Some felt that there were more important concerns than the welfare of children – thus, they rebuked those who brought the children.
  3. Jesus welcomed children to come unto Him!
- B. The kingdom of God is made up of those who have the heart of a child.
- C. They obeyed their parents and the Lord.

- III. BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN IN WORSHIP (MATTHEW 21:15-16)**
- A. Upon His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the Temple, even children cried out in praise to the Lord.
  - B. This was unacceptable to the Jewish leaders, but it was pleasing to God.
    - 1. Barnes: "People often are offended that 'children' have anything to do with religion, and deem it very improper that 'they' should rejoice that the Saviour has come."
    - 2. "Our Lord Jesus viewed this subject differently. He saw that it was proper that they should rejoice. They are interested in the concerns of religion, and before evil principles get fast hold of their minds is a proper time for them to love and obey him."
  - C. To confirm this, Jesus quoted Psalm 8:2 – emphasizing that God is praised by children as well as adults.
  - D. Adults could learn much about worship by noticing the actions of children.
    - 1. In singing
    - 2. In prayer
    - 3. In sincerity
- IV. BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN IN FORGIVENESS (1 CORINTHIANS 14:20)**
- A. The word 'malice' refers to "ill-will; desire to injure another; wickedness or evil."
  - B. When it comes to malice, God wants men to be like children.
    - 1. Children may argue and fight.
    - 2. But, they are quick to forgive and forget.
    - 3. In fact, the word here refers to an infant!
  - C. Like children, men must learn to forgive and to reconcile.
- V. BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN IN GROWTH (1 PETER 2:2)**
- A. Desire to learn (2 Timothy 3:15).
  - B. Be willing to be trained (Ephesians 6:4).
  - C. Too often, pride gets in the way of our growth as we get older.