

# Like Children

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Matt 18:3-5      Mark 10:14-15      Luke 18:15-17

1 Peter 2:1-2      Eph 5:1-2

Why was Jesus so adamant about being like children? Children cannot help themselves in the grown-up world. They are not fully developed, can hurt themselves and cannot behave as structured and diplomatic as adults.

Let church answer first.

The answer follows:

## **1. Innocent**

Children do not have years of hardship and pain. They do not doubt new endeavours that their parents and teachers send them on. They are not suspicious of anything or new people.

Grown-ups are often suspicious of many unnecessary stuff and we lock doors to other people before there is a chance to open them.

We need to learn to be a bit innocent again, to forget about the past and to enjoy our lives as children of King Jesus. In the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve were innocent. In heaven we will be innocent again.

## **2. Spontaneous**

Children have no problem acting like themselves and doing funny things without reserve. If you see children playing you see how spontaneous they are. "They just be".

Grown-ups are often shy or we feel insecure, criticising ourselves so much that we kill our own creativity. We are too scared to do anything new, choking our spontaneity.

We need to learn to let go and just to be ourselves, to dream and to start trying new things. Say: "God made me uniquely and I am special. I will give the world a piece of unique me."

### **3. Unconditional**

Children accept each other as they are. They also accept their parents as they are. They do not worry about all your screw-ups you made before they met you. They do not care about your bad past.

Grown-ups usually create a filter of distrust for every person, which we put before our eyes and ears. Then we will only accept what remains after passing through the filter. We let our own hurt, anger and unforgiveness dictate what we accept from another person and then we wonder why the relationship will not improve.

Surely these filters we do to protect ourselves from more hurt, but we often lack the understanding and wisdom in when to listen and believe the other person. Unforgiveness creates more anger and self-righteousness, which is another form of pride. God says in Matt 6:15 that we will only be forgiven if we forgive others.

What we need to do is to separate our hurt from reality and submit to the bible to forgive others. To separate your hurt means you cry alone and you be angry alone and you complain about your hurt to your Father in Heaven with fear and trembling. You need to forgive the one that hurt you. You need to remember that our battle is not against flesh and blood. We have no right to unforgiveness, unless if you want to go to hell.

### **4. Carefree, because they trust**

Children do not worry about tomorrow. They trust their parents for food, a roof and clothes. They do not lie awake the whole night worrying about how they will cope the next day. Even if they know things could be better children are quick to accept their circumstances and to adapt.

Grown-ups worry. We understand that actions have consequences and we believe in reality. We know our world is imperfect and it takes a big effort to make a living. We know life is hard.

We need to learn to trust God more and to worry less. *This is a process.* Sometimes you need to force yourself to calm down and trust God. Sometimes you need to accept your circumstances as is, that you have to wait, go through whichever challenges and to carry on regardless.

If you want the maximum help from God in bad circumstances you need to lower yourself before the King, get rid of all pride and to have a healthy fear of God in you. The fear of God gives you an appreciation of Who you are dealing with.

## **5. Simple faith**

Children have simple faith. They do not debate or rationalise instructions like attorneys or teenagers do. They do not find hidden meanings and a number of reasons to not believe. If you give a child a promise they will believe it, expect you to act on it and remind you of it. You better act on your promise or you will destroy your child's faith in you. That is simple faith.

Grown-ups complicate things. We talk ourselves out of our faith and we listen to wrong influences. That is what happened to Eve. We often cloud the picture with irrelevant information.

We need to apply faith by making a *permanent decision* to believe for the outcome. We need to remember that it is impossible to please God without faith. We need to use faith to the fullness to create answers to problems. (Faith like a mustard seed, mountain gone.)

When we pray we need to decide to believe God and his Word. We need to pray in the Name of King Jesus and we need to put our full being into that prayer. (This is all your passion, your whole heart.) Applying your faith with your full being is exercising it so you become stronger. Persecution and hardship also strengthens your faith.

## **6. Obedience**

Your children may give you a hard time, but at the end of the day they will still sleep at home. They will still look at you for guidance and help, even if you are a bad parent. They will still copy you and stand by you and actually listen because they instinctively know you know best. They will still be obedient to you after all.

Grown-ups like to run around, do our own thing and then blame God for when it goes wrong. Grown-ups often do not want to be told what to do, especially when circumstances are bad and we actually need to submit and listen. Children growing up without a father also struggle more with complying to authority as adults.

We need to submit to all the leadership God put in our lives, even if we do not like them, or being obedient. We need to remember that God is watching and if we want Him to open a door for us, then we need to pass the obedience test. Matt 25:21. We need to set the example to our children in how to be obedient.

## **7. Desire parental love and guidance**

Children desire love, affection and recognition from their parents. Even if they could be ugly and naughty, at the end of the day they will still sleep in your arms. Kids demand love from their parents.

Grown-ups can be so selfish and self-absorbed, that we just forget how important it is to give love. We forget that love makes the world go round. We think it is money.

God is love (1 John 4), which is an absolute statement. God spoke the universe into existence, with the Power He has, which is Love. All energy and matter in the universe comes from Love. The bible says He upholds the stars, the earth. His Love is the fuel for Life. Your life is grounded in love, which is why you need love to exist and live. People pick up serious problems from a lack of love.

We need to open up the portal from heaven and let love stream forth and rivers of living water, when we can and when we have the time, when we know that now is the time to make a difference. Lavish the love of the King on others, just like a child would.

When we are busy and stressed, we still need to try to leak love through the gates, so that the others can come and drink without fear. We need to teach ourselves to be like this. Our own reservoir needs to be so full on the inside, that we cannot help to leak the living water around the gate from our being should we even be closed to others at that point.

We only need to think of our priorities and to start changing the way we act and speak, so that we cannot help to be a good influence on others.

## **Conclusion**

We have a choice as grown-ups. We need to start to remove ourselves from the world and all its negativity, so that our hearts stay protected, so that we are appealing to the world by leaking love.

Nobody can resist true love, it will impact even your biggest enemy. Love is the most powerful weapon we have. It changes minds and opinions. It softens hearts, calms down anxiety and it releases negativity, breaks bondages and opens new doors. We need to love like children, believe like children, trust unconditionally like children, be innocent and spontaneous and we need to desire the love and care of our Daddy above all else. Then you are on the right track. It takes time to learn and to change, so we also need to be patient with ourselves and others.

So, lets bow our hearts and pray this in childlike obedience.

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