

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Int.

1. Aim: To show how a little child can lead us!!
2. Isa. 11:6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." 2 Cor. 5:17
3. Qualities in children that adults need
 - a. Parents are to train their children - we also need to learn from them.
 - b. While they are led they can lead us.
4. Children are not born totally depraved - not lost in sin
 - a. Mt. 18:3 - 4 "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."
 - b. Mt. 19:14 "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
 - c. Of such is the kingdom of heaven
 - d. A character like theirs is needed
5. To be mature we must have some child-like qualities
 - a. 1 Cor. 13:11 "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."
 - b. Not childish -- immaturity
 - c. But Child-like - innocence, purity
 - d. There is a difference
6. A little child shall lead them in....

Discussion

I. IN HUMILITY

- A. Mt. 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."
1. A child is humble
 2. Failure to be humble will be a reason not to enter heaven
 3. Humble = not to think too highly of self
- B. Pride is condemned
1. Prov. 6:16 - 17 "These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood," Haughty Eyes = ASV Eyes of Pride = BBE
 - a. It is first on the list
 - b. Pride is at the root of many sins
 - c. God hates this
 2. Pride = overvalue of self and undervalue of others
 3. Leads to destruction:
 - a. Prov. 29:23 "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."
 - b. Prov. 26:12 "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? [there is] more hope of a fool than of him."
 - c. Rom. 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

C. Humility Pays:

1. James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."
 - a. Proud - haughty = "Proud of their humility"
 - b. Resist - military term
 - c. Gives grace to humble
 - d. Prov. 15:33 "The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom; and before honour [is] humility."
2. James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."
3. Matt 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."
4. Luke 18:10-14 "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."
5. A little child leads us in humility !!!

II. IN FORGIVENESS

- A. 1 Cor. 14:20 "...in malice be ye children.... "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." {men: in Greek the word means perfect, or, of a ripe age}
1. Children generally forget the faults of each other
 2. Not normal for them to hold grudges - they forget all about the problems.
 3. Malice = evil disposition
 4. In understanding be like men - be like children in forgiving
- B. Forgiveness requires understanding
1. Jesus forgave because he had mercy and understanding - Lk. 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."
 2. He has forgiven us and he teaches us to forgive others.
 3. Matt. 6:14-15 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
- C. God's law of reciprocation [getting even - pay back]
1. Mt. 7:1 "Judge not that ye be not judged...."
 2. Lk. 6:38 "Give and it shall be given unto you...."
 3. Mt. 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy"

D. How often should we forgive?

1. Matt. 18:21-22 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."
2. This is not to be taken literally - $70 \times 7 = 490$ times
3. It means we forgive as often as needed.
4. We should forgive others because we have been forgiven of all our sins. Matt. 18:33-35 "Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

E. A little child shall lead us in forgiveness.

III. IN SINCERITY

A. A child is sincere

1. Honest - not deceitful
2. Sincere = without wax - wax was used to cover up flaws for fine china - if it was good it had no wax or was sincere. - genuine!! Not deceitful
3. Eph. 6:24 "Grace [be] with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen." {in sincerity: or, with incorruption}

- B. We cannot hide insincerity
1. God knows our thoughts and intents of the heart
 2. Rom. 12:9 "Let love be without hypocrisy." ASV KJV has dissimulation.
 3. It has to be genuine
 4. Mt. 23: 28 "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Real
- C. Children lead us in sincerity

IV. IN CONFIDING TRUST

- A. Children trust their parents
1. Not afraid - Feel parents can do most anything
 2. Need money - then write a check - no money in bank - well put some in there
- B. Confidence in God our heavenly Father
1. Heb. 13:5-6 "[Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."
 2. Ps. 84:11 "For the LORD God [is] a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good [thing] will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."
 3. Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose."
 4. We need to have more trust and confidence in God than little children have in their parents.

CONCLUSION

1. Children imitate their parents:
 - a. Dress
 - b. Speech
 - c. Walk
2. Parents need to imitate their children in:
 - a. Humility
 - b. Forgiveness
 - c. Sincerity
 - d. Confiding trust
3. Poem "A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"

"Last night my little boy confessed to me some childish wrong;
 And kneeling at my knee he prayed with tears:
 "Dear God make me a man, like daddy - wise and strong! I know you can."
 Then while he slept, I knelt beside his bed, confessed my sins,
 And prayed with low bowed head: "O God, make me a child, like my child here, pure,
 guileless, trusting thee with faith sincere."
4. Matt. 18:3 "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."
5. I sa. 11:6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

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