

“As a Little Child”

Mark 10:13-16

Introduction: Children are indeed a blessing from God. They are innocent, untouched by wickedness, trusting to a fault. Despite discipline, children cling to the parents, recognizing the parent’s unwavering love for them. The Lord tells us we must be like children if we are going to enter heaven (Mark 10:13-16). Children will forsake all for their parents. They love their parents for no apparent reason other than pure love. They cling to parents; willing to give up the affections of others in this world just for a hug from Mom or Dad. They are willing to do anything they can for their parents. They will even give their parents a bite of their cookie or a drink from their cup. When they do wrong, they are quick to cry in their sorrow at the disapproval from their parents. Christ says "such is the kingdom of God." If we are not willing to be like a child in order to be a Christian, we won't enter heaven (Mark 10:15). How do I become "as a little child?"

I. As a little child, there must be someone greater than self that we want to serve. That someone is our Father and Lord in heaven (Matt. 18:1-5).

- A. We must humble ourselves as a little child in order to please Him.
- B. We can't please Him unless we are converted and become as a little child.
- C. Unless we become as a little child, we can not enter heaven.

II. Humbling ourselves and becoming as a child conveys the idea of denying self for our Lord.

A. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

B. "Now therefore, listen to me, *my children*, for blessed *are those who keep my ways*. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain *it*. Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death." (Prov. 8:32-36).

III. Christ doesn't want just anyone to be his children. He only wants those who are willing to be his children (Luke 14:25-33).

- A. We can't be Christ's disciple (His child) if we put family before Him.
- B. We can't be Christ's disciple (His child) if we won't bear our cross and follow Him.

C. We can't be Christ's disciple (His child) if we don't forsake all for Him as any little child would do for their parents. The only difference is we have a choice to accept Christ as our parent. Did we consider the cost of becoming Christ's disciple (His child)?

D. Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26; Matt. 16:24-26.

1. We must be willing to follow Christ to the point of death.
2. We must be willing to give up anything this world has in order to follow him.
3. We can't be ashamed of Christ.

E. Matt. 10:34-39

1. We aren't worthy of Christ if our family comes first.
2. We aren't worthy of Christ if we won't suffer as a Christian.
3. We will lose our life if we live it for ourselves.

IV. Even in persecution, the Lord expects our love as a little child would do for its parent (1 Pet. 4:12-16). Christians are blessed in the sufferings and trials in life for Christ's sake. What child would be ashamed to suffer while defending its parents?

V. Example of the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-22).

A. The rich young ruler said he gave up all these things for heaven but one thing he lacked. He wasn't willing to forsake all.

B. Would we be willing to give up our riches? How about our family members or our own life for Christ?

C. My wife was threatened to be disowned if she became a Christian. She was willing to give up her family to follow Christ.

D. Christians must withdraw from family members if they turn their backs on God.

VI. As Christians, we are not our own (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Christ paid the price for us. We accepted that price when we became Christians. We became Christ's children.

Conclusion: Christ wants our commitment to him; our unconditional love and loyalty just as a little child would give its parents. Are you a child of God? Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins?