

Irony

- NT churches try to bring people into spiritual adulthood
- Many passages tell them to behave like little children

Our Second Childhood

I Jesus Used Children As Visual Aids

Mt.18:1-5, little children

- 1, pride
 - Discussion produced by 16:18-19?
- 2-5, *little children*
 - Be humble.
 - Two warnings:

¹If not like child (a nobody) will not enter kingdom, 3

²Handle with care, 6-7
(not nobodies to God)

I Jesus Used Children As Visual Aids

Mt.18:1-5, little children

Mt.19:13-14, little children

Jn.13:33, little children

1 Jn.1:1, little children

II We Must Become Little Children

- Jn.1:12, right to become...believe
- Ga.3:26-27, sons of God...faith

III We Must Not Become Childish

- Fickle, selfish, Lk.7
- Spiritual immaturity, 1 Co.3:1-3
- Childish behavior, 1 Co.13:11
- Gullibility, Ep.4:14
- Ignorance, Hb.5:12

IV We Must Become Little Children In . . .

¹Humility, Mk.9:33-37

- **33:** please explain
- **34:** cat got their tongue
- **35:** competition is sinful and unwise
 - Paul, Ep.3:8
 - David, 2 Sm.16:11-13
- **36-37:** non-citizen, lowest of lowly, but headed for heaven

IV We Must Become Little Children In . . .

²Malice, 1 Co.14:20

- Evil; maliciousness; ill-will.
- Paul speaks as father (4:15) to children
 - As Mt.18: grownups to imitate children

IV We Must Become Little Children In . . .

³Imitation, Ep.5:1, **His likeness**

- 'Therefore' ↔ 4:31-32
- What would the Father do?
- Partakers of divine nature, 2 Pt.1:4

Imitation, Mt.5:43-48, **His love**

Imitation, Ph.2:15, **His light**

IV We Must Become Little Children In . . .

⁴Obedience, Ep.6:1-3

- Children obey and honor
- ‘Obedience’ without understanding: blind zeal
- Apathy after understanding: lukewarm ingratitude

IV We Must Become Little Children In . . .

⁵Dependence, 1 Tim.5:8

- Mt.18:25
- We think child must receive kingdom as adult (obey gospel as we do)
 - Here: child sets pattern from man
 - Total trust
- Mt.11:25, babes

Teachable; humble;
free of prejudice; full
of hope, trust...

IV We Must Become Little Children In . . .

⁶Growth, 2 Tim.1:5; 3:14-15

- ‘Childhood’ – Lk.1:41, unborn
- Ac.13-14 . . . 16

IV We Must Become Little Children In . . .

Humility

Malice

Imitation

Obedience

Dependence

Growth