

7/2/06

How to Become As Little Children

⇒ **Text:** Matthew 18:1-6

○ **Read Matt. 18:3**

⇒ **I. Practice Humility.** - Matt. 18:4

○ A. Little children realize they are small and must look up to grown-ups.

- They are aware of their lack of strength and wisdom.
- They ask for help and guidance.

○ B. God wants us to be aware of our lack of strength and of our inability to understand everything.

- He wants us to ask Him for assistance and wisdom – **see James 1:5**

⇒ **II. Practice Trust** – Prov. 3:5

○ A. Trust is a wonderful characteristic of little children.

- They trust their parents implicitly to meet their needs.

○ B. Many people are trusting in materialistic pursuits and depending on their own abilities.

○ C. God wants His children to trust Him completely to meet their needs – **see Phil. 4:19**

⇒ **III. Practice Light – heartedness** – see 1 Peter 5:7

○ A. It is normal for little children to be light-hearted and carefree.

- There are exceptions, such as those coming from broken homes, etc.

○ B. God wants His children to be light-hearted and carefree, too.

- He is able to bear their burdens – **see 1 Peter 5:7**.

⇒ **IV. Practice Persistence**

○ "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith" (**Heb. 10:23**).

○ A. A little child falls many times but he never gives up until he learns to walk.

○ B. Christians make blunders and mistakes, but they should keep trying and refuse to give up.

⇒ **V. Practice Anticipation**

○ "I press toward the mark for the prize ... " (**Phil. 3:14**).

○ A. Children continually look ahead with anticipation.

○ B. Discouragement is short-lived with children.

- They look to the future with hope.
- C. Christians should look ahead with anticipation, too.
 - They should look for and expect the best to come – **see John 14:1-3**.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

○ We now that it a lot easier for a young child to saved then it is an adult.

Reasons

○ I believe it is for the ~~reason~~ we have looked at today.

○ However, I believe after what we have seen today that is beneficial for the Christian to become as a little child by:

- Practicing Humility
- Practicing Trust
- Practicing Light Heartedness
- Practicing Persistence
- Practicing Anticipation