

Unless You are Converted and Become as Little Children

Matthew 18:1-5

Consider these characteristics of children that citizens of the kingdom should have:

I. Humble

- a. Character of citizens of the kingdom
 - i. Matthew 5:3
- b. Necessary for right relationship with God and man
 - i. James 4:6,10
 - ii. Micah 6:8
 - iii. Luke 18:9-14
 - iv. Philippians 2:1-4
- c. Pride an arch-enemy
 - i. 1 John 2:15
 - ii. Proverbs 6:17; 3:7
 - iii. James 3:13-16
- d. Humility required to come to God, to admit wrong, to confess sin, to take responsibility for own mistakes.

II. Teachable

- a. Christians are a taught people
 - i. Matthew 5:6
 - ii. Matthew 11:28-30
 - iii. Matthew 28:20
 - iv. Titus 2:1
 - v. 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- b. Christians desire and are ready to be taught
 - i. 1 Peter 2:1-3
 - ii. Matthew 13:9ff
 - iii. 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - iv. James 1:21
 - v. Acts 17:11
 - vi. 2 Peter 3:18
- c. Desire to be taught so that we can teach others
 - i. Hebrews 5:12; Acts 8:4
- d. We want to grow in knowledge and faith, and in order to do that, we must be teachable.

III. Forgiving

- a. Matthew 5:7

- b. Christians are eager to forgive
 - i. Ephesians 4:31-32
- c. Christ our example in a forgiving spirit
 - i. Luke 23:34
- d. Unforgiving Christians cannot be forgiven
 - i. Matthew 6:13-14
 - ii. Matthew 18:35
- e. Let us have a forgiving spirit and be ready and willing to forgive.

IV. Innocent and guileless

- a. Purity of motives, desires, wants
 - i. Matthew 5:8
 - ii. Philippians 4:8
 - iii. Pure in heart and thus in word and deed – Matthew 23:25-26
- b. “The heart of infants being free from avarice, what care they for a handful of silver more than a handful of dust?”
- c. Free of deceit, scheming, malice, cunning craftiness, retaliation, evil surmising
 - i. These were the ways of the old man – Ephesians 4:31
 - ii. 1 Peter 2:1-2, 21-23
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 14:20
- d. Purity of heart characterizes the Christian. We must keep our heart single and free of duplicity.

V. Trusting dependency

- a. We are dependent more than we recognize
 - i. Acts 17:28
- b. Childlike trust in God’s provisions and His word, whether young or old
 - i. Matthew 6:25-34
 - ii. Proverbs 3:5-6
 - iii. Hebrews 13:5-6
 - iv. 2 Timothy 1:12
 - v. He carries us through difficulties
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
 - 2. Job 19:25-26
 - 3. Philippians 4:13
- c. Our prayers should demonstrate our dependence on God
 - i. Matthew 6:9-13
 - ii. 1 Peter 5:6-7
- d. Christians ask God for every physical and spiritual blessing and trust that He will provide.

Have you developed these child-like characteristics?