

Like a Child

When Jesus taught He taught about spiritual things either principles or attitudes and so when we look at His comments on Children at times they are meant in a spiritual sense and not a physical sense.

One of the surprises I had in doing this study was to see the attitude Jesus had to those He was training to be His followers which was not shown to those He casually taught.

Mar_10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

Joh_13:33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come;

He thought of them as His spiritual children. So ministers who do not disciple people do not have spiritual children but only spiritual acquaintances and they reject the advice of Paul:

2Ti_2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

This is different to the Salvation relationship we have as an adopted child of The Father in Jn 17:3

Jn_17:3 (CEV) Eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, the one you sent.

Gal_3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Luk_20:36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

Rom_8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom_8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

The Apostles also thought of those they were mentoring as their spiritual children.

Gal_4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

1Jn_2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

If we are the children of God we will be in unity with other children of God and not divided by denomination and belief.

Joh_11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

The promise of The Father is:

Mat_7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Luk_11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

The Holy Spirit is described as a 'good gift' from The Father so you need to look after this gift carefully.

Discipling or casual relationship

You will know whether or not you are discipling any one by the type of relationship you have with them:

Spiritual father

or

Causal interaction

Mothers and fathers will say they are not disciplining anyone.

God has given them children to disciple and a parent does not fulfil their task if their child ends up in hell.

Conclusion

You should relate to your heavenly Father as a child relates to its parents and you should relate to your children as The Father in heaven relates to you if you are truly a follower of Jesus and adopted child of The Father.

You will do the work of The Kingdom because it is the work of The Father and will help Jesus because He is family – your step brother by adoption and not because of punishment if you do not help Jesus.

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