

Children of God | Blog Posting

By Calvin Culy

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)

And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3-4)

I know for me personally that the phrase 'children of God' was always more of a 'term' than an understanding for me. It was a label instead of a description. What I mean is—I could say that I am a child of God and that you are too (if you are)—without really understanding what that means. And perhaps missing just how far the analogy goes...so here are a few suggestions as to the applications of this simple three letter description of what the Christian should look like.

I think that the first thing to make obvious is that we are the children of God and not the kids or teenagers or adults of God. We never 'graduate' to a new level. We will always be God's children and what a beautiful thing that is. As in an earthly relationship the father leads the child by the hand, bracing him or her as they take baby steps. If for a moment we pull our hand back and with the mindset of an adult say 'I can do it on my own' we're sure to fall flat on our face! We need a child-like dependence on our Father or we will surely fall.

While the world urges us to grow up, be independent, and provide for ourselves, we must learn to depend on God for everything. If a child isn't fed by its parents it will die. If a child isn't led by its parents it will be left behind and exposed to danger. A child can't make it on its own, provide for itself, or make wise decisions about its future. That's absurd. How ridiculous we are to think we can do these things without our Heavenly Father.

When a baby is hungry or in need what does it do? It cries...and cries...and cries. And it doesn't stop until its parents feed it and take care of it. It may be a child, but it is persistent until its cry is answered. We must be the same with our Father in heaven, for He hears our cries and is ready and desiring to answer and help us. He is more than able to do far above and beyond what we can ask or imagine!

Children, being sinful humans, disobey. Sometimes they might not know of their wrong until they are corrected—often they already do. But either way, the Father comes and disciplines them in love. There is no hatred or anger in His voice; disappointment perhaps, for He has clearly told us His will. But He is so very patient with us. He picks us up, corrects our action, and is quick to forgive us when we repent. He shows us again the right way to go and leads us in it.

Children are proud of their parents...pretty much by default. They love their parents because their parents love them. We love God because He first showed His love to us. And what great love he has and continues to show! He desires that not one should perish, but that all should repent and be saved. Repentance is a child-like behavior. When we grow up we find it hard to say that we're sorry and forgive others, while children are so quick to apologize and forgive a friend.

Humility is also a characteristic of a child. He knows that he isn't much on his own. He thinks far better of his parents than himself because he doesn't think of himself. He doesn't think of what others think of him either, but acts boldly (though sometimes foolishly) and takes the consequences of this action. Here we might apply this to witnessing. That we care not what others think about us, but how deceived their thinking is regarding God. That we not worry about the consequences of sharing the truth to them, praying that the 'consequence' of this is their salvation.

To finish, we are like a child whose father is away on a trip. At school the child brags about his daddy, how great he is and how he loves him. The child speaks to his father often on the phone, but hasn't seen him for a long time. He tells his classmates how he loves speaking with his dad and hearing his voice but wishes to be with him in person. The other kids poke fun saying that the child made him up, but the boy always tells them that his father will be back one day soon. They don't understand because they don't know him like the child does. When he returns he'll take the child home to be with him forever!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin Culy". The signature is stylized with large, looping letters.

Calvin Culy

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