



Sermon Summary – May 19, 2024

Live Like a Child of God

Trust

Young children trust adults in general but especially their parents. They never question whether their parents will take care of them or not. They always expect their parents to be there for them too. They will often lose their fear of uncertain situations with the presence of their parents. All children at some age lose that unwavering trust in the adults in their lives. Real world experience teaches them that adults and even parents aren't always trustworthy. That's often why we have trouble trusting God despite all the biblical evidence and personal experience that teaches us He is trustworthy (Jer 17:7). We must trust God for salvation, then should continue to trust Him throughout our Christian life. The attitude of humility is vital for trusting since we must relinquish control of our own lives (Matthew 18:1-3). We can trust God because is loving and in control.

Imitate

Children physically look like their parents. Children also early and often copy what their parents do and say. That's why the best parenting advice is to be a good example to your children because they will do what you do far more than they will do what you say. All people are created in God's image. Furthermore, people who are saved are called God's children. And since we are God's children, we are commanded to imitate Him. Paul writes in Ephesians 5:1, 2, "Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God." While much is written and spoken about who God is and how we should be like him, we can simplify it by commands that are repeated throughout Scripture. Love like God and be holy like God (1 Peter 1:15,16).

Obey

The Scripture gives one consistent command to children, "Obey your parents." (See Eph 6:1, Col 3:20). While trust and imitation come naturally to young children, obedience doesn't. We are born self-centered. That self-centeredness shows itself in selfishness and sin at an early age and stays with us our whole lives. Although obedience may be difficult and unnatural it is still what is required of children of their earthly parents and us of our heavenly Father. Jesus said if we love Him, we will obey His commands (John 14:15, see 1 John 5:3). Jesus' commission to the disciples was to make more disciples who would obey Jesus' commands (Mat 28:18-20). Of course there are many specific commands in Scripture. We should study the Word so that we know these. Jesus summed up the 613 commands of the Old Testament with the two commands to love God and to love our neighbors. Quick and constant obedience will lead to a secure life (Matthew 7:24-27).