

Relationships in the Kingdom

Becoming Like Little Children

Matthew 18:1 In that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of the heavens?

Matt 18:2 And He called a little child to *Him* and stood him in their midst

Matt 18:3 And said, Truly I say to you, Unless you turn and become like little children, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

Matt 18:4 He therefore who will humble himself like this little child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of the heavens.

Not Stumbling Others

Matt 18:6 And whoever stumbles one of these little ones who believe into Me, it is *more* profitable for him that a great millstone be hung around his neck and he be drowned in the open sea.

Forgiving Others

Matt 18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?

Matt 18:22 Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, Up to seven times, but, Up to seventy times seven.

Matt 18:23-35 (Read in groups if desired)

Being Dependent on One Another

Matt 18:3 And said, Truly I say to you, Unless you turn and become like little children, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

Psa. 84:1-2 How lovely are Your tabernacles, / O Jehovah of hosts! / My soul longs, even faints, / for the courts of Jehovah; / My heart and my flesh cry out / To the living God.

Psa. 96:8 Bring an **offering**, and come into His courts.

We should realize that little children are very dependent on others. Many Christians want to be independent, to exercise their character, and to be strong in themselves. In the local churches we all must be dependent like little children. I need you, and you likewise need me. None of us can afford to be independent; we are all dependent upon one another. Little children depend upon one another and recognize their need for a home. Whenever they have problems, they simply refer the problems to their home, and they listen to their home. A giant does not listen to his home. Even if a giant does have a problem, he may hide the problem from his home. It is so good to be able to tell our problems to the church. We should realize that we are little children who are dependent on our home. It is terrible not to listen to the church. In Matthew 18:17 the Lord Jesus said that if anyone will not hear the church, he should be considered as a Gentile and a tax collector. These were very ugly terms in the Lord's time. If you were a Gentile or a tax collector, you were considered to be mean and defiled. If we do not listen to the church, then in the eyes of the Lord and in the eyes of the church, we too become mean and defiled. This is very serious. In the proper church life we all are little children who depend upon our home. We refer our problems to our home, and we listen to what the home says about them.