



## Jesus on Family, Relationships, and Possessions Pt 7: Our LORD's Love for Children!

February 13, 2022

### Holy Text: Matthew 19:13-15

Mark's version:

**Mark 10:13-16 (KJV)** *And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, **Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. 16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.***

### Thoughts on our Text:

1. As we read, our LORD had just finished teaching on marriage and divorce. William MacDonald says here that, "It is interesting that children are introduced shortly after the discourse on divorce; often they are the ones who suffer most severely from broken homes."
  - This is so true! How many people have heard these words to a struggling couple: "Never stay together just for the children!" Is there a better reason? How does that couple know how God might increase the sanctification of their marriage by their biblical commitment to the children? (1 Cor 7:14)

(Not only that, but **Children** are part of "a triangle" of good reasons to stay together when times get hard. The other two are **Christ** (the #1 reason) and the **Covenant** you both made!) All of these can serve to hold you together until the **Circumstances Change!**

- As we begin to consider our LORD's words about children, let us check our worldview!
2. Still in the coasts of "Judea beyond the Jordan" (Matt 19:1), some families, upon hearing Jesus finish one topic, decided to usher their children towards Him.
  3. For this, let us give them credit. Any parent that decides to bring their children to Jesus that our Master might lay His holy hands upon them in blessing is operating in wisdom.
  4. The obstacle they met however, was an unlikely one! You'd think the Pharisees or the Sadducees would be the ones trying to stop such...or maybe the Scribes. Given the times they were in, it's not too far-fetched to think that perhaps demons/devils might have interfered as well!
  5. But no; it was our LORD's own men, His disciples, who thought it wise to stop children from being near the "fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Col 2:9)
    - The tone seems to suggest that the disciples weren't even nice about it. They "rebuked them." The NLT uses the word "scolded."
    - You would think if there was any group of men on the planet that would have sensed our LORD's love for little ones it would've been them.
    - However, less we think of ourselves more highly than he ought to think (Rom 12:3), in what ways have we done the same to our children? How many opportunities have we had to lead or move our children closer to Jesus, but we, "the disciples," saw it as annoying, or too costly, or too inconvenient?
  6. Of course, the disciples actions "much displeased" Jesus. He corrected them and commanded that they "suffer" ("let, allow, or permit") the children to get near Him and to not forbid them.

7. Beloved, this can serve as a great Christian Parenting lesson of what NOT to do: we must live and lead in such a way where there is daily encouragement TOWARDS Jesus and there is never a forbidding towards the things of God! Your child can't be "too saved" or "too holy" or "too wrapped up the Bible." It really is amazing how our children's secular things achievements can mean more to us than their spiritual ones!
8. Our LORD gives a reason for this admonishment: "for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 19:14) As we implied while learning from Matthew 18, references to children often have two meanings in our LORD's teachings: little ones in terms of age AND humble ones (adults and children) in terms of faith.
9. Both meanings are likely in view here. Our LORD loves, protects, and brings little ones unto Himself if they pass away earlier than their time of accountability...such are the Kingdom of Heaven! Also, those who have repented and believed in Christ and who demonstrate child-like faith...such are the Kingdom of Heaven! Both are "happy, pure-hearted, honest, undoubting, curious, attentive, and always ready to follow Jesus into kingdom adventures!"<sup>1</sup>
10. Indeed, if such faith is not present, one is right to question one's faith and make their calling and election sure. Jesus said, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15), and "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 18:3)
11. Then our LORD "took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them." (Mark 10:16) He loved them! He still does!
12. Oh beloved parents, **in all of our teaching, preaching, protecting and discipling, let us not forget that the goal is Jesus. Yes we want their behavior to conform, and yes we want our families to be neat and orderly. But sometimes, indeed most times, discipleship is messy. Do not quit! Our goal for them should be the arms of Christ!**

**In order to help us love children closer to the way Christ does, here is a short review on the *Biblical Doctrine of Children*:**

**1. Children must be understood.**

- It might seem like overstating it to say that we must strive to see children biblically, or "understand them."
- Indeed, please don't forget that all true knowledge, wisdom, and true understanding comes from God!

***Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

***Proverbs 9:10 (KJV)** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

***Proverbs 9:10 (KJV)** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

- Beloved, will all due respect, any society that kills nearly between 650,000-750,000 babies per year and has killed over 60,000,000 babies since 1973 doesn't think biblically about children! Don't forget the filth they are exposed to every day through media and the ungodliness thrown at them each day in some spheres of education.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2021/11/dont-mess-with-the-children>

- Let us never forget that they too are made in God's image. Let us also not forget that they are human at conception:

**Genesis 1:26-28 (KJV)** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

**Jeremiah 1:5 (KJV)** *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

**Psalms 139:13-16 (NLT)** *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

## 2. Children must be protected.

- If one truly understands children biblically, one would do whatever he must to protect them!

**Exodus 20:13 (KJV)** *Thou shalt not kill.*

**Leviticus 18:21 (KJV)** *And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.*

**Psalms 106:37-39 (KJV)** *Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, 38 And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. 39 Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.*

**Matthew 18:10 (KJV)** *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*

- Biblically, this role of protector is given to parents, and in particular, a father who is head of his home. Let us who have the honor to be trusted by Christ with children, continually reevaluate in this area. Are we protecting them well? Shielding them from devilish schemes and pagan madness? Are we equipping them well?

## 3. Children must be loved.

**Psalms 103:13 (KJV)** *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

**Titus 2:3-5 (KJV)** *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

- Remember who they are!

A Fruitful Reward!

**Psalms 127:3-5 (KJV)** *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*

A Blessing from the LORD!

**Psalms 128:3-4 (KJV)** *Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. 4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.*

#### 4. Children must be disciplined.

- This is often a difficult area for parents and source of much conflict! Nevertheless, parents must persevere. Loving discipline is commanded:

**Proverbs 3:12 (KJV)** *For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

**Proverbs 13:24 (KJV)** *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

**Proverbs 19:18 (KJV)** *Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.*

**Proverbs 22:15 (KJV)** *Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*

**Hebrews 12:6-11 (KJV)** *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

- Remember, the goal of any kind of biblical discipline is always biblical restoration, which not only includes towards the human offended, but also the LORD Jesus. The hope and

prayer is a change of heart through the recognition of wrong and then repentance and the subsequent shift in behavior going forward.

- Also remember that the price for failing to discipline can be very high. Remember Eli and his sons he failed to restrain? (1 Sam 2; 3:13) Scripture says:

**Proverbs 17:25 (KJV)** *A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.*

**Proverbs 29:15 (KJV)** *The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

## 5. Children must be disciplined.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-12 (KJV)** *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. 10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, 11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; 12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

**Psalms 78:1-8 (KJV) Maschil of Asaph.** *Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: 8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.*

**Ephesians 6:4 (KJV)** *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

- Please teach them! Please read Scripture with them! Please pray and sing with them! Please keep them in a sound church! Please get them involved in ministry! Please consider how powerful education is in the forming of their worldview! Please don't allow the enemy into their lives without holy warfare!

**Luke 6:40 (KJV)** The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

**Colossians 2:8 (KJV)** Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (KJV)** *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* **5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

**1 John 4:2-3 (KJV)** Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: **3** And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

**Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- Our website to help believers in this area is still active: <https://www.d6reformation.org/>

#### **Final thoughts:**

The devil hates life and hates children.

“Our culture, although it says otherwise, hates children too. It increasingly desires to expose them to, and cause them to heartily embrace, all manner of ungodliness and perversity. Even our cultural day to day systems and structures—our manner of life—tends to cultivate loneliness and isolation, artificial relationships, skepticism and disbelief, unbiblical morality and ethics, and abominable sexuality cleverly cloaked in humanism and relativism. As a result, hopelessness and despair (note the millennial loneliness epidemic) have been, for the last few years, at all time highs. And yes, our nation sacrifices children bodily as well, with some 62 million abortions since 1973. Molech worship is alive and well.”<sup>2</sup>

Our LORD however, loves His children...the humble adults as well as the little ones. He wants the little ones near Him, close to Him, learning about Him, singing His praises. He wants them rooted, grounded, and built up in Him.

CRC, let us be about our Father's business! Amen!

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2021/11/dont-mess-with-the-children>