

In the Eyes of a Child
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Introduction: We as adults should not stay far removed from involvement with children.

- A. Sometimes husbands can be removed from the wife and children.
 - 1. The responsibility of being a breadwinner should not separate a man from his family. **(1 Pt 3:7; Eph 6:4)**
 - 2. Wives with small children can often hunger for adult conversation!
 - 3. God's word will bring men back to their families. **(Mal 4:5-6)**
- B. It is a delight to be brought into the presence of children being raised by godly parents.
 - 1. There is no better group to lead in singing than children at a VBS!
 - 2. I wish that every member could see and be reminded what is seen in the eyes of a child.

I. Children are humble and willing to be taught

- A. The time and quality of our Bible classes is time well spent.
 - 1. More importantly, the consistent teaching and lives of the parents can instill a faith that will overcome the world.
 - 2. Every parent WILL be a teacher, therefore be the best teacher you can be! **(Deut 6:2-9)**
 - 3. A child of God will be zealous about learning and will always have a teachable heart.
 - 4. What do you want to teach your children? Do you want them to eat cotton candy or a balanced healthy meal?
- B. A humble heart is teachable. **(Mt 18:1-4)**
 - 1. The ability to learn is often hindered by pride. **(Jn 5:39-44)**
 - 2. Any experienced teacher can attest to this. You *will often* face those in the church that will not listen to a given teacher.
 - 3. Satan works hard to block hearts to the word of God. He is especially successful to those who have some knowledge of God's word. **(2 Cor 4:3-4)**
 - 4. A hardened heart will resist the most powerful teaching. **(Jn 9:32-24, 39-41)**
 - 5. Can Jesus teach you and I? He may send someone you do not want to hear!

II. Children trust and believe their parents

- A. Children do not worry about things that adults do.
 - 1. They think "dad will take care of me!"
 - 2. We need to trust our heavenly Father. **(Lk 12:6-7)**
 - 3. Parents want to give good gifts to their children. **(Mt 7:8-11)**

4. Children want to be led and loved. What are you giving your child?
- B. Children want to be like their parents.
1. It was no surprise to see my boys involved with track and cross-country.
 2. Years ago one of the best TV commercials against smoking was of a boy trying to do everything his father did.
 3. In teaching, one of the most important lessons I reluctantly learned is to give priority to those who are interested. **(Lk 7:32-35)**
 4. You will never have a better listener than your children. Please let your life match what you teach!
 5. The time you spend with your children will give you teaching opportunities! (Ex. Places I visit and think of times with my children.)
- C. Children want the approval of their parents.
1. When a parent is distant or plays favorites it creates insecurity and anger in their hearts. **(Gen 37:4)**
 2. Bitterness, depression and many issues come out of a home where parents fight, refuse to communicate and show favorites.
 3. "It is easier to fix children than broken adults."

III. Children are quick to forgive and move on

- A. What does it mean to be converted to the Lord? **(Mt 18:3)**
1. You are humbled to the death of your will.
 2. You know the enormity of your sin and the unmerited grace of God.
- B. What does it mean for God to forgive?
1. **He blots out our sins! (Acts 3:19; Isa 43:25)**
 2. **God does not remember our sins any more. (Heb 8:12)**
 - a. He is described as casting them into the sea. **(Mic 7:18-19)**
 - b. When God forgives our sin is long gone! Do you believe this?
 3. **God receives us back to a full fellowship. (Lk 15:20-24)**
 - a. There is no grudge holding with God.
 - b. Our biggest problem is in believing this.
- C. Children are tender Heart towards others
1. Children are very tenderhearted and quick to display sympathy.
 2. We must never loose this willingness to share the hurts of others. **(Rom 12:15; Eph 4:32)**
- D. Children would rather love and forgive than to live in malice. **(1 Cor 14:20)**
1. Unwillingness to properly work out differences is why most people leave a local congregation.
 2. If we cannot forgive and move on we cannot go to heaven. **(Mt 18:21-22, 35)**
 3. Do not let another Christian tempt you into sharing their bitterness.

Conclusion: Can we be humbled and let the Lord make our hearts as a child?