

Suffering is over...

**Matthew 19: 13-15**

"Then little children were brought to Him that He might put *His* hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."  
And He laid *His* hands on them and departed from there."

**"This stuff makes up..."**

The stuff that makes up the Kingdom of Heaven... is where children are.

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Wow.

Let's think about that.

**Is this an isolated Scriptural concept?**

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"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me." *Matthew 18:1-5*

**Scripture evidence**

Positive impact on us spiritually when we welcome children into our midst and cherish them as He does.

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And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me...But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea." *Mark 9: 35-37, 42*

**Scripture evidence**

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### Scripture evidence

Positive impact on us spiritually when we welcome children into our midst and cherish them as He does.

Negative impact on us spiritually if we do anything which causes children to stumble in their walk with Jesus.

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Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to *him* through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should **offend** one of these little ones."

*Luke 17: 1-3*

### Scripture evidence

"offend" "skandalizo"

- 1) to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall,
  - a) to entice to sin

By following my example, they are led to sin.

### Scripture evidence

b) to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey

1) to cause to fall away

2) to be offended in one, i.e. to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority

3) to cause to judge unfavorably or unjustly

My actions or following my example leads them to being judgmental or rebellious.

### Scripture evidence

c) since one who stumbles or whose foot gets entangled feels annoyed

1) to cause one displeasure at a thing

2) to make indignant

3) to be displeased, indignant

My witness is so poor, they become disillusioned with what it means to follow Jesus.

### Scripture evidence

Millstones result from...

- By following my example, they are led to sin.
- My actions or following my example leads them to being judgmental or rebellious.
- My witness is so poor, they become disillusioned with what it means to follow Jesus.

### Scripture evidence

Positive impact on us spiritually when we welcome children into our midst and cherish them as He does.

Negative impact on us spiritually if we do anything which causes children to stumble in their walk with Jesus.

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"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

*Proverbs 22:6*

Comforting promise we cling to...

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*Proverbs 22:6*

Comforting promise we cling to...

But realistically, there is a disconnect going on...

And it is happening in both directions.

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across America is ineffective**

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- *Those who are wearing millstones begin to think of them as proper bling to bring to church*

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- *Consequently, the Church has fewer young adults and very few older adults who can mentor them on how to raise their own kids.*

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- *The family is weakened as the God-defined roles are ignored and circumvented*
- *Consequently, the Church has fewer young adults and very few older adults who can mentor them on how to raise their own kids.*
- *The essential relationships which need to be nurtured in a Body are very difficult to establish and maintain*

**What goes on in this church must be effective**

Why?

Because Jesus said for us to receive Him, we must receive His children.

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Because there is a connection between where children are and where Jesus is.

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Because Jesus said for us to receive Him, we must receive His children.

Because there is a connection between where children are and where Jesus is.

Because we will have a millstone around our necks if we mess this up.

**What goes on in this church must be effective**

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Because we are where He is calling them.

**What goes on in this church must be effective**

Why?

Because they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Because we are where He is calling them.

Because now is the time for us to see what He has for us as a united Body of Christ.

**Live - a discipleship ministry**

- Debuts Sunday, June 3rd
- Prayer @ 9:30
- Breakfast/Donuts @ 9:45
- From 10:00 - 10:20 discipleship instruction
  - Donna - instructing children
  - Men - instructing men and teen guys
  - Women - instructing women and teen girls
- Praise & Worship @ 10:30

**Live - a discipleship ministry**

- Debuts Sunday, June 3rd @ 10 a.m.
- Need prayer support
- Need administrative support
  - Weekly postcards mailed to kids
  - Copying, room prep
- Need financial support
  - Curriculum and supplies
- Need crowd control
- Need role models
- Need pew support
  - "non-offensive, millstone-free place to land"