

SERMON NOTES - Childish Goals

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

1Co 13:11 HNV - "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away **childish** things."

1. BRIEF RECAP - We must be childLIKE not Childish

Mar 10:15 NKJV — "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child (CHILDLIKE) will by no means enter it."

1 Co 14:20 (NKJV) "Brethren, do not be children in **understanding**; however, in **malice** be babes, but in **understanding** be mature."

"Childlikeness" = TRUST, HUMILITY, DEPENDENCE, INNOCENCE, PURITY

2. We must PUT AWAY Childish things.

We must be intentional and ruthless. In order to do this we must know what these childish things are, AND keep the childlike things.

3. When I was a child I had CHILDISH GOALS

Children's goals, in general, are:

- Mainly influenced and controlled by their parents' goals
- Self centred
- Short sighted and temporary

4. Psa 127:3-5 NKJV — "3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,

The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,

So are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;

They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate."

Note that:

- Children are a BLESSING and God wants us to have them.
- Children are likened to arrows, and we, as parents, are like archers or warriors.

We have a huge responsibility in fashioning and guiding our children.

They pick up and take on board much from us, especially our aim or mission or goals in life.

"They shall not be ashamed" - we should love our children (with appropriate guidance and discipline) so that they are not ashamed. Shame is the sense that there is something wrong or bad about me.

"They shall speak with their enemies in the gate." - God's aim is for our children to be able to handle opposition and difference of opinion, and they must "attack" the "gates of Hades" to set people free from the devil.

Mat 16:18-19 NKJV - "18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.""

5. HOW DO WE DO THIS?

1. Provide A Stable Setting -
2. Provide A Loving Setting - Eph 6:4 KJV - "4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
3. Be Genuine, Open, & Real - they hear your heartbeat.
4. Face In The Correct Direction - Show them what it looks like to seek and love God and His purposes first.
5. Make Them Straight And Sharp - train and guide them
6. Release them at the appropriate time.

5. WHAT ARE THE CHILDISH GOALS WE MUST "PUT AWAY"?

1. Aimlessness / Letting Others & Circumstances Dictate
2. Selfishness - Make God's goals your own goals
3. Shortsightedness - think of eternity
4. Bitterness & Wrong Beliefs We may Have Inherited

Other Verses mentioned:

Act 17:26-27 NKJV - "26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;"

Mat 6:22-23 NKJV - "22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

Mat 6:33 NKJV - "33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Jn 16:33 - in this world we will have trouble but Jesus has overcome the world.

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.