

SERMON NOTES - Childish or Childlike

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."

POINTS

1. We must be childLIKE but 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."

Mat 3:17 NKJV - "17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.""

Mat 23:8-12 NKJV - "8 "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

2. "Speak, feel, think" - Adults should think → feel → speak , but kids often do it the other way around.

3. We must PUT AWAY Childish things.

In order to do this we must know what these childish things are, AND still keep the childlike things.

4. When I was a child I didn't have real (agape) LOVE.

The context of the verse is LOVE and an immature use of the gifts of the Spirit, and living with eternity in mind.

The gifts must be used in an adult way - in love.

1Co 13:1-3 NIV - "1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

Love is SELFLESS.

1Co 13:4-7 NIV - "4 Love is **patient**, love is **kind**. It does **not envy**, it does **not boast**, it is **not proud**. 5 It does **not dishonour** others, it is **not self-seeking**, it is **not easily angered**, it keeps **no record of wrongs**. 6 Love does **not delight in evil** but **rejoices with the truth**. 7 It **always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres**."

Eternity and heaven is our goal so let's act like grown ups.

1Co 13:8-13 NKJV - "8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

5. This love comes from God first and then we can share it.

Phileo - Brotherly, friendship love which is really quite childish

Eros - Romantic and sexual love which is an adolescent emotion.

Agape - God's kind of love which is adult love

1Jo 4:19 NKJV - "19 We love Him because He first loved us."

1Jo 3:16 NKJV - "16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

Rom 5:5, NKJV - "5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

A father's blessing helps us move onto Adulthood, and put away childhood, but many haven't had this. Your heavenly Father can give you this.

BarMitzvah.

6. Applications:

- Have you received God's love?
- Have you put away childish insecurity and neediness and taken on His grown up kind of love?
- Parents must show their children His kind of love. Blessing, acceptance, joy, peace. Not control, selfishness and manipulation. How do we discipline with acceptance and not control? As God does...He never withdraws love or acceptance, but He gives us CHOICES and there are CONSEQUENCES.

Pro 6:20-24 NASB - "20 My son, observe the commandment of your father And do not forsake the teaching of your mother; 21 Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. 22 When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress."

- Christians - are we loving (Like God) or are we selfish, like the rest of the world?
Jhn 13:35 NKJV - "35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.""

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.