



A PROMISING PARADOX



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Childlike Maturity

- 1. An Encouragement for Children**
- 2. A Challenge for Adults**
- 3. An Invitation for All**



**Jesus welcomes the children
(Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16;
Luke 18:15-17)**



Jesus teaches the disciples (Matthew 18:1-4; Mark 9:35-37)



1. An Encouragement for Children: Appropriate Boldness (Mark 10:13-16)



**People were bringing little children to
Jesus for him to place his hands on
them, but the disciples rebuked them.**

Mark 10:13



**When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.
He said to them, “Let the little children
come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such
as these.**

Mark 10:14



**Truly I tell you, anyone who will not
receive the kingdom of God like a little
child will never enter it.”**

Mark 10:15



**And he took the children in his arms,
placed his hands on them and
blessed them.**

Mark 10:16



2. A Challenge for Adults: Appropriate Smallness (Matthew 18:1-4)



**At that time the disciples came to Jesus
and said, “Who then is greatest in the
kingdom of heaven?”**

Matthew 18:1



And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:2-3



"Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:4



"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45



3. An Invitation for All: Appropriate Progress (Ephesians 4:11-16)



So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Ephesians 4:11-12



**until we all reach unity in the faith and
in the knowledge of the Son of God and
become mature, attaining to the whole
measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Ephesians 4:13



**Then we will no longer be infants,
tossed back and forth by the waves,
and blown here and there by every
wind of teaching and by the cunning
and craftiness of people in their
deceitful scheming.**

Ephesians 4:14



Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:15-16



**We all need to grow up
(mature character).**

**We all need to grow young
(childlike faith).**

We all need each other!





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