**Becoming as Children**

*Matthew 18:1-5*

**Introduction**

1. As Christians we should desire to live as God has called us (*cf. Ephesians 1:1, “walk worthy of the calling with which you were called”*).
2. We must look to God’s standard of what we should be and not our own.
3. Jesus said we must become as children (cf. Matthew 18:1-5).
   1. Disciples arguing who is greatest (v. 1).
   2. The kingdom of heaven was the opposite of how the apostles were envisioning it.
4. We can learn a lot from the way children are. Jesus has told us to model ourselves after them. Let us take a look at some characteristics of children…
5. Humility (cf. Matthew 18:4).

*Likely the specific characteristic Jesus is calling to their attention considering the circumstance.*

1. In the Sight of God.

* James 4:7-10 – In order to be pleasing to God we must be humble. We must recognize it is not about us in the least bit.

1. Among Each Other.

* Luke 22:24-27 – Another occasion where the disciples were disputing over who was the greatest. Jesus teaches them humility by Himself, being the greatest of all of them, serving them.
* Philippians 2:3-4 – We must become servants of one another.

1. Dependency and Trust.
2. Dependency: We need Help in this Life to Reach Heaven.

* Jeremiah 10:23 – A child does not depend on himself for directions in life. We must look to God’s direction.
* Psalm 119:11, 25, 28, 105 – We must depend on God’s word to guide our steps.

1. Trust: Have no Doubt in God.

* Hebrews 11:6 – We must have faith to please Him! We can’t doubt His nature, or His ability to reward us!
* James 1:5-7 – We must not be double minded. That is instability!

1. Purity.
2. We Must be Pure.

* Matthew 5:8 – Only the pure will see God.

1. Personal Responsibility to Maintain Purity.

* *“Keep yourself pure” – 1 Timothy 5:22*
  + *“Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).*
    - Purity calls for complete abstinence. No exceptions. A little is too much.
  + In word, in deed, in thought – Luke 6:43-45
  + In order to keep pure we must meditate on pure things – Philippians 4:8
  + Pure and undefiled religion – James 1:27

1. Eagerness (cf. things children want).
2. Children are Eager to Learn and Grow, Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2.

* 1 Peter 2:1-3 – The desire to grow is in us as new creations.
* Hebrews 5:12-14 – It should be there continually.

1. Zealous for good works

* Titus 2:14 – We as God’s chosen people should desire to do good.
* Ephesians 2:8-10 – It is why we were created in Christ Jesus.