

BEING CHILDLIKE: MEDITATION ON MATTHEW 18:1-5

By Mark Moore

- 1) What does it Mean to be Childlike:
 - a) **Not seeking rank or position**
(although children seek recognition)
 - b) **Seeking to be last** -- repent, become lowly. How? It does not mean self-deprecation but:
 - i) Refusing to be embroiled in competition.
 - ii) Specifics:
 - (1) Accepting lowly service
 - (2) Serving lowly people-- those who need it
 - (3) Laying down your own life
 - (4) Putting aside your own needs
 - c) **Humble yourself**
 - i) Recognize your "clayness"
 - ii) Forego your own ideas to adopt the word of God
 - iii) Consider others as more important than yourself
 - (1) Listen more; talk less
 - (2) meet other's needs before your own
 - 2) Admirable Characteristics of Children
 - a) They have a wonder of life.
 - b) Blind to color, dirt, social class and dress.
 - c) Dependence on parents, especially for self-esteem.
 - d) Expressive with emotion.
 - e) They believe in Santa Clause and get excited about it. They have a gullible faith.
 - f) They have all the time in the world to play, especially with people.
 - g) They don't get stressed.
 - h) They lack ambitions.
 - i) Focus on the moment.
 - j) They aren't afraid to make new friends.
 - k) They hate to sleep but have no trouble doing it.
 - l) Seek to imitate their parents.
 - m) For them, work and learning are part of play.
 - n) They recognize and freely admit their weakness. They are not afraid to ask for help.
 - o) They never tire of asking questions.
 - p) They see life from the 1-3' level.
 - q) They dance indiscriminately.
 - r) They may tattle but they don't gossip.
 - s) They tell you honestly what they feel and like and dislike and why.
 - t) They live off hugs, kisses and candy.
 - u) Sticks, ribbons, frogs, and plastic necklaces are treasures.
- 3) What can I do to make me child-like?
 - a) Pray for it
 - b) Sing and Dance
 - c) Laugh and be silly
 - d) Look outward and upward
 - e) watch for the mystery and majesty of life all around
 - f) be unified: Body, soul & spirit. Express with our bodies what is happening inside.
 - g) Sit with lonely people
 - h) Don't judge on dress or looks
 - i) Practice active listening
 - j) Ask more questions, talk less.
 - k) Stoop, quietly, and see the world from the 1-3' level. Adopt others' eyes.
 - l) Cease to brag or gossip.

