

As Little Children
Mark 10:13-16
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Some little children were brought to Jesus that He might touch them, however, the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus wasn't pleased with their handling of the situation and intervened with the words found in verses 14 and 15. Listen. "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Jesus put us on notice that we will not enter God's kingdom unless we receive the kingdom like a little child. To receive the kingdom no doubt refers to receiving the blessings the kingdom has to offer. Ephesians 1:3 explains that all spiritual blessings are in Christ. We cannot expect heaven's blessings outside of heaven's kingdom. Surely all of us want to receive what awaits us in the kingdom. To do that we must receive the kingdom like a little child. How is that? How does a little child receive the kingdom?

First, a little child is pure. He is innocent. Of course, you and I are not innocent at all! We have sinned! Praise the Lord that He has paid the price to redeem us from sin, a price we can not pay. By His love He purchased our innocence. Listen to how Paul put it in Ephesians 1:4. "...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be *holy and without blame* before Him in love." Those who are in Jesus Christ are innocent!

Second, a little child is believing. Just as a little child believes when a parent speaks, we also must believe when the heavenly Father speaks. Ephesians 1:13 describes those in the kingdom as those who, having believed, were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. No one can enter the Father's kingdom without an open and willing heart of belief.

Third, a little child is trusting. Trust is closely akin to belief. Trust cannot exist apart from belief, and belief without trust is belief without expression. To trust in another is to put confidence or faith in. To trust is to commit something of value to one's trust or care. Trusting comes easily to a little child. And it marks a true Christian. Notice again Ephesians 1. Verse 13 says, "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth..." Paul reminds those who heard and believed the gospel message that they had trusted in Christ. That is, they entrusted their souls to Him by their obedience to the gospel. You and I must do the same if we are to gain entrance into Christ's kingdom.

Finally, a little child is an heir of his father. Those who receive the kingdom as little children are also heirs of the heavenly Father. Ephesians 1:11 says, "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance..." What wonderful blessings await those who are the sons of God because they have become as little children!