

You can check out the expanded version of this document at the Kid's Info Table in the lobby.

You can also access our resource room and Children's Table for information and biblical positions on

- Baptism
- Communion
- Discipline
- Salvation

Feel free to contact the appropriate member of our Family ministry Team with any questions or concerns.

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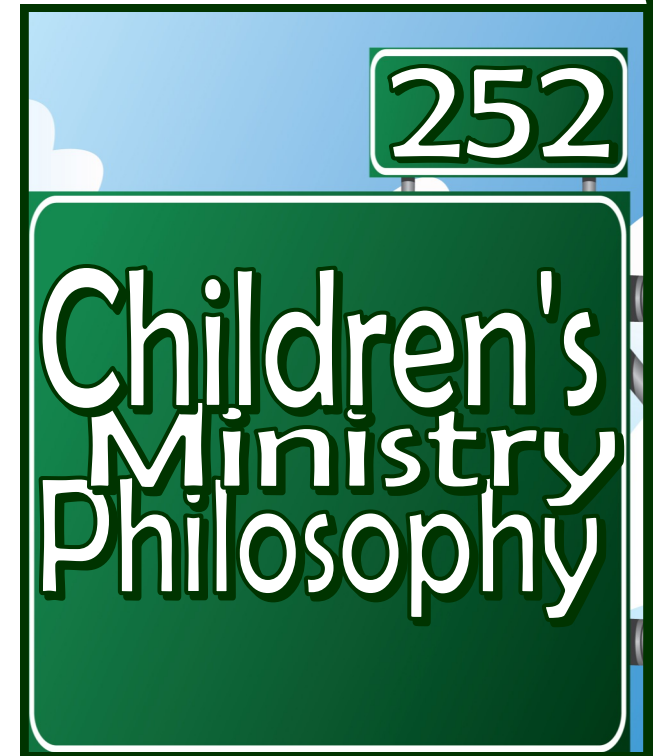
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“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

- Luke 2:52

The Value of Children

We believe that God is honored when persons created in his image are treated with honor and love for the sake of Christ.

We stand against the cultural trends of cheapening and dishonoring human life. We emphatically believe that children are a "heritage from the Lord". (Psalms 127:3) Human life, from its earliest pre-born form in the womb until death is the unique work of God and has value in reflecting the personhood of God.

Human life is utterly unique above all other created life because humans are created in the image of God, (Gen.1:27, James 3:9) with the capacity to consciously know, enjoy and glorify God.

We value children before they are born.

The Bible teaches that already in the womb God is knitting together a person. (Psalms 139:13, Job 31:15) Abortion on demand reflects the devaluing of human life. We proclaim the truth of Scripture: God's image is not to be snuffed out, whether that image dwells in a mother's womb, incubator or ward for the terminally ill.

The Nature of Children

Children have a sinful nature

A. The value of children as persons created in the image of God is not forfeited in this life even though all persons come into the world with a corrupt, sinful nature inherited from Adam. (Rom. 5:12-19)

B. We are all born by nature as "children of wrath" (Eph.2:3) and are headed for destruction unless new birth, repentance and faith unite us to Christ, whose death and resurrection covers the guilt of all who belong to him. (Eph. 5:25-26, Heb.10:14)

C. We believe in the power of God to change children so that they become vessels for His use even while they are children.

Children are Immature

In addition to sharing the same fallen state and sin nature that all humans have, children are also less developed physically, emotionally and socially. They are in the process of growing up. Some of the marks of immaturity are seen in the following passages: 1 Cor.13:11,14:20 Heb. 5:12-13)

Children are Dependant

Matt. 18:3-4 states "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven." Jesus spoke these words to show that to become like a child is not to strive for immaturity rather to show us that children are helpless and needy and utterly dependant on their parents for what they need. Children are models of happy trust in the protection and provision of their parents. This is the heart we need to have in coming to Christ.

Children Become Accountable

A. Because all children are different and mature at different times, all of our descriptions of children must be understood as being on a continuum from total helplessness to strong mature adulthood.

The Responsibility of Parents Towards Their Children

1. Responsibility to Teach and Model God's Truth

A. The Bible consistently and explicitly lays upon parents the primary responsibility to teach and model God's truth to children. (Deut. 6:7, 11:18-21 Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:1-4)

B. Two implications from the above verses in Deuteronomy. First, Moses taught the adults the Word of God and then the adults were expected to pass it on to their children. Second, the adults will only be effective teachers if they have God's Word on their hearts.

C. Both parents have the responsibility to teach their children God's Word and both parents should be obeyed and have the authority to teach their children. It is necessary for parents to function as a team to disciple their children. That being said, fathers have a special responsibility in teaching their children and leading their families spiritually.

2. Responsibility to Discipline

A. The time of youth is a great time to form lifelong attitudes towards God. (Ecc. 12:1)

B. Parents therefore, have the responsibility to discipline their children in the Lord. (Prov. 29:17)

C. Godly discipline is rooted in love. If parents don't discipline lovingly then they don't truly love their children.

D. This does not mean that we can guarantee a child's commitment to Christ by proper teaching and discipline because children have wills of their own and can walk in obedience or rebellion.