

## What Is Important to Children

### Commentary for August 1, 2012 — ... To Us as Children of God

I want to briefly discuss what is important to children, and particularly what is important to us as children of God. The article that I wrote for this month of August 2012 is titled "[What Is Important](#)." I am not asking a question with this title, I am making a statement. I discuss what is important to various elements of society and the world system that God has established through Christ. My discussion of what is important includes individuals and believers.

Now I want to go into greater detail of what is important to children and relate that information to us as children of God, children who relate to the Mystery of God. I am concentrating on writings from the Mystery epistles and the post-Mystery Gospel of John.

**"Be you therefore followers [imitators, in Greek] of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also has loved ["loves," aorist, simple present] us, and has given ["gives," aorist] himself for us [1] an offering and [2] a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor."**

• *Ephesians 5:1-2*

God and Christ love us and give of themselves to us, and interact with us now, at this moment, as God the Father's children, and Christ as a loving and self-sacrificing elder brother. The next verses, Ephesians 5:3-8 tell us what we are to avoid and sins we should not commit as God's children.

Elsewhere Paul tells us in his epistle to the *ekklesia* at Philippi:

**"All be doing without murmurings and reasonings, that you may become blameless and artless, children of God, flawless, in the midst of a generation crooked and perverse among whom you are appearing as luminaries in the world, having on the word of life, for my glorying in the day of Christ ..."**

• *Philippians 2:14-16, Concordant Version*

We were made to be children of God for a simple reason, God chose and made us to be so:

**"In the world He was, and the world came into being through Him, and the world knew Him not. To His own He came, and those who are His own accepted Him not.**

**Yet whoever obtained Him, to them He gives the right [the authority] to become children of God, to those who are believing in His name, who were begotten, not of bloods, neither of the will of the flesh, neither of the will of a man, but of God."**

• *John 1:10-13, Concordant Version*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Read Romans 8:16-17. We are children of God because God's Spirit merges with our spirit to make us His children.

## ***What Is Normal for Children***

God the Father is the archetype of all parents. His ideal is what we as parents should attempt to emulate. So, what should normal, emotionally healthy children be like? What are the behavior characteristics of healthy children? I hope you are relatively happy now, as a believer in Christ. Think back to the time when you were happy as a child, then think about happy children you have known.

Children are curious. They have a wonderment about their surroundings and in their approach to life. They approach the world with a fearlessness that allows them to be open to new experiences.

Happy children experience (and give in return) unconditional love. They are easily amused and they laugh easily. It is common for adults to laugh only a few times a day. Normal young children laugh scores of times each day, some laugh hundreds of times each day. The more the better.

## ***Christians I Have Met***

Think about those people that you have known who you believe were true Christians. Unless they were under extreme stress, they probably exhibited many of the characteristics that normal healthy young children exhibit.

They do not have unreasoning fear in their lives or fear of the future. After all, for their own lives, the worst that could happen is that they would die, and in their next conscious moment they would experience a rising in the air in the resurrection. Christians I have known, ASK people I have met, believers in universal salvation that I have encountered, have a very positive view of the future for themselves and their loved ones. And, they generally laugh easily and freely.

So, as children of God, how should we live our lives? The apostle Paul tells us:

***“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice [in evil] be you children, but in understanding be men.”***

***• 1 Corinthians 14:20***

In evil, in malice (as the King James Version puts it) be as innocent as children.

The epistle of 1 John (although not a Mystery epistle) uses the phrase “little children” 9 times throughout, and “children” without the descriptor “little” three more times. He did not just call those he was addressing to be his children just because he brought them to the faith. He termed them children because [1] they were young in the faith compared to him, because [2] they acted as children who had much to learn and needed to grow in grace and in knowledge, and because [3] they had the attitude of little children: laughter, an eagerness to learn, and most important of all — love.

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