

OUR CHILDREN, GOD'S CHILDREN

Romans 8:14-17 Galatians 3:26 John 1:12

Introduction: Children are children and everybody knows about children. Television has had children programs from the very beginning and all any pastor has to do to fill up the church sanctuary is to have a program with children in it. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, friends, all come to see that special child. No doubt about it, children are special. Another fact is that children grow up into adults but that "child" is still in that adult body. We have our children and God has His children. There are an awful lot of similarities:

I. BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR CHILDREN

Positive

1. Trusting
2. Innocent
3. Carefree
4. Teachable
5. Loveable
6. Happy
7. Excited
8. Forgiving
9. Playful
10. Easy to Please
11. Dependent
12. Impressionable
13. Surprising
14. Growing
15. Curious
16. Talkative

Negative

1. Selfish
2. Pouting
3. Whining
4. Disobedient
5. Lie
6. Noisy
7. Moody
8. Forgetful
9. Careless
10. Cryful
11. Scareful
12. Steal
13. Unpleasable
14. Short Attention
15. Insecure
16. Thoughtless

II. NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN

1. Children need to be loved.
 - Parental love, family, friend love
2. Children need to have their needs cared for.
 - Food, clothing, shelter, medical
3. Children need to be protected.
 - From physical harm, from bad influences, from themselves.
4. Children need to be taught.
 - Basic skills, to read, what is right, wrong, good, bad.

III. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

1. Strangely they are the same as those of our children. Ever see an adult act like a child? Ever say or hear some of these words spoken to an adult?
 - You are childish.
 - You behave like a baby.
 - Why don't you grow up?
 - Mamma's little baby.
 - What's the matter, lose your bottle?
 - Cry baby.
2. Do you know an adult who:
 - Is selfish? - Is Hateful? - Is Rude? - Pouts? - Lies? - Steals?
 - Is hard to please? - Is Careless? - Is Forgetful? - Is Thoughtless?
 - Is disobedient? - Is Moody? - Is Trusting? - Is Loveable?
 - Is Happy? - Is Easy to please? - Is Forgiving? - Is Playful?
3. Being an adult does not remove those basic childhood characteristics.

IV. BASIC NEEDS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

1. God's children need to be loved.
2. God's children need to have their needs met.
3. God's children need to be protected.
4. God's children need to be taught.
5. God's children have the same basic needs as our children.

CONCLUSION:

1. No matter how old an adult might live to be, that person will always be God's child.
2. Ever wish you could climb back up into your mother or father's lap once again? Or wish you had someone to run to when you got hurt or things weren't going so well?
3. Who of us adults haven't wished we could relive some of those childhood years over again?
4. God tells us that He wants to provide for us and care for us. He tells us to come to Him with our burdens. He tells us to call Him "Dad" and holds His arms out for us to come running to Him.
5. God will always look upon the Christian as His child. Face it, we act like children, we have the needs of children. Why won't we let God be the Father we would like to go running to and then go running to Him? We will **always** be children to God.