

Children For Eternity

8-23-15

Matthew 18:10 (ESV)

See that you do not despise one of **these little ones**. For I tell you that in heaven **their angels** always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 18:14 (ESV)

It is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

God is looking at the innocence of HIS creation. HIS divined protective Hands are covering the majesty of HIS creation. Then God entrusts these children to our care. God loves children. I cannot help but be in awe of the multitude of accounts of parents having visions and dreams about meeting their unborn children in heaven. Look at the prominence Jesus places on children.

Mark 9:36–37 (ESV)

³⁶ And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them,

³⁷ **“Whoever receives one such child in my name “receives me”, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”**

Children have always interfered with ministry.

Mark 10:13 (ESV)

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and **the disciples rebuked them**.

The disciples really upset the kind, loving Jesus?

Mark 10:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant (to feel a violent irritation, physically) and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

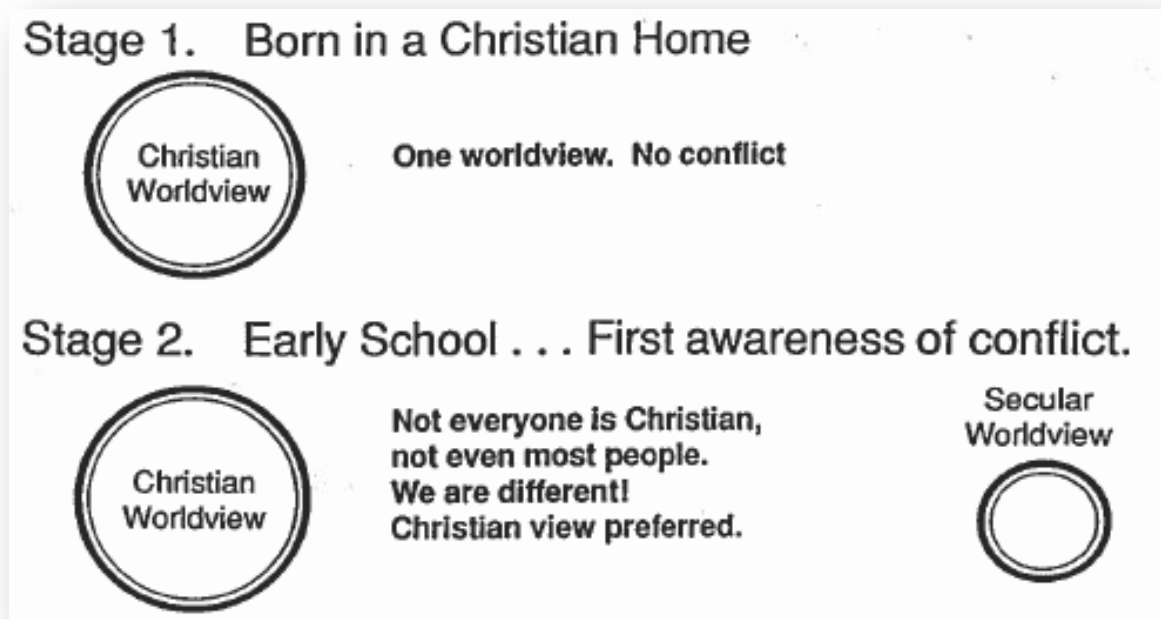
We have something to learn from children.

Mark 10:15 (ESV)

Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.

We will be held accountable to God for our children and the children, which we have the opportunity to minister to. Understand children development:

Children’s Stages Of Disbelief



Stage 3. 7 - 8 years . . . The Unreality of the Invisible



I can't see God.
How can he be real?
What is real and what isn't?
Secular view growing.



Stage 4. 9 - 11 years . . . Two Compartment World



Bible World vs Real World
Non-factual vs Factual/Scientific
What is relevant?

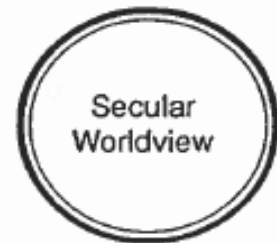


Stage 5. 11 + years . . . Choosing an Independent View



Christian
Worldview

Independent decision
External reasons
Weak invalid belief
crumbles under pressure



Teach children the things of Christ; the reality of the Holy Spirit. Put wheels on their wagon. They can move in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to turn this world upside down. Their hearts are open! Don't be like the religious leaders.

Matthew 21:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and **the children crying out in the temple**, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" **they were indignant (to feel a violent irritation, physically).**

Compare Jesus' attitude concerning the children.

Matthew 21:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ The chief priests and the scribes they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,
" 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise'?"

Again in Matthew, Jesus says, "If you receive a child, you receive Jesus." Also Jesus says that anyone who brings harm to a child is eternally doomed. The ministry to the children is serious!

Matthew 18:5–6 (ESV)

⁵ **"Whoever receives one such child in my name**
"receives me", ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

I do not know of any other ministry where Jesus gives such an intense warning. Therefore know that any effort you put into Children's ministry, Jr. High ministry, or Sr. High ministry is of eternal value.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team