

November 29, 1988

Childlike

Peacemaker

There are things in the gospel that are absolutes. If we don't become peacemakers — every person — makers of peace, then we won't be called sons of God. Every son of God is a peacemaker. They bring about peace and good will. A person cannot be a son of God without being a peacemaker. This separates the true from the false. Matthew 5:9 — *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.* This is true, it is the Word of God.

You can gain the fear of YHWH — Proverbs 2:1-5, Isaiah 66:2 — if you don't tremble at His word, then you don't care if you are a peacemaker and you probably aren't a son. *Oseh Shalom* — Peacemaker — brings peace about, accomplishes it — in harmony — secures it. We must become peacemakers. Matthew 5:9.

Childlike

First we must be converted, and then we must become like little children. Matthew 18:3. If a person doesn't become child-like, then it is possible that they weren't converted. What does being a child really mean? What is *child-like*? Shepherds need to know what child-like means so they can instruct, correct, and rebuke to have people be this way. Parents need to know so they can direct their child back this way. Matthew 18:3-10. *Child-like* is marked by innocence. We have to be innocent. We need to be absent from guilt. It means marked by trust. Little children are trusting. Child-like means you have to be ingenuous. The child is not so clever, has no deceit. They show innocence. *Ingenuous* means child-like, having simplicity. We must change and become like this, having these qualities. Being complicated is the opposite of being child-like. If you have been converted you can become child-like. Our Master is not a hard taskmaster and wouldn't ask an impossible task.

Complicated: Difficult, complex, difficult to analyze, understand and explain.

Child-like has to be candid — this is part of ingenuous.

Candid: Lacking in craft, natural, open, out-front.

The 144,000 will have no deceit in them at all. A sent one can't pass on the gospel with any of this in them. There has to be enough child-likeness in us to be able to receive from one another. We can understand who is child-like and who isn't. We can see if our children are child-like or if they are becoming this way. This is the difference between one who inherits the kingdom and one who doesn't. *Ingenious* and *ingenuous* — the difference is the *I* or the *U*.

Ingenuous: Native, freeborn, honorable, showing innocence, child-like simplicity, candidness, lacking craft.

If you aren't like that you won't enter the kingdom of heaven even if your sins are confessed. This is why we have the Word and are in the Body.

Ingenious: To show cleverness, intelligence, wisdom, inventing, special aptitude of discovery, contriving, resourcefulness, cleverness; to be clever, mentally quick, marked by wit and ingenuity.

Saying things without the Holy Spirit, saying, "I can do things" without Him, saying things without depth, with wit, power of inventing, discovery. We can have these qualities but be child-like. We need both of these qualities, but still be child-like. We are to be converted to be like little children — we are to change our flavor. Some don't change and continue to function without the Holy Spirit. We can only become something we are not without the Holy Spirit. After 20 years it will be obvious who became child-like and who didn't. Those who aren't converted will cause trouble. The shepherds who are child-like will clearly see this then. Joab

functioned in the natural capacity. The worthless can't be grasped in hand. Children are not full of complications — they are simple. When we aren't abiding, we are complicated. If you are full of complications, should we say you're not converted, or should we say you're complicated and not child-like? If you are never poor in spirit, you won't enter the kingdom of heaven.

Complicated people don't trust what they know is true. 1 Corinthians 13:2 — If you refuse to love you are a nobody. Some have the capacity to have love and they don't do it. We need to have love and give it or we have a problem with rebellion and obstinacy. If you don't have the Spirit, you don't have the capacity to love. Natural abilities don't take the place of spiritual grace. Are we on a stage acting out the role of ingenue? It is a deliberate attempt to appear innocent for the purpose of seduction. It is deliberate and contriving.

Contriving: To devise, plan ways to handle a situation, make schemes, devise ways to get your way.

We must correct this and not allow it in our children or we won't be fit for the Kingdom.

Parents and shepherds must see this in our children and correct it, stopping this contriving, devising ways to get their way. These unchild-like ways are to be corrected. Rebuke and instruct with great patience. These unchild-like qualities in us will not allow the vine to blossom. We must be peacemakers — we must go to our knees in prayer and beg to be changed to be this way. Proverbs 2:1-5. The goal of apostolic instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.

Matthew 21:43 — fruit of the kingdom. If it isn't good it will be taken away and given to a people who will produce the fruit of it.