

### *Worthy of Respect*

by David Nelson, Pastor of Christian Education and Discipleship

Sometimes, in our society, we love our children, but we don't properly value them for who and what they are in the midst of their childhood. Either, we dismiss their actions, ideas, pains and struggles as something 'cute,' 'funny,' or irrelevant - something they'll grow out of; OR we push them to behave, think, and respond 'more like an adult' before their time.

According to scripture, we're not alone in our attitudes and actions toward children:

*People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup> And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.* **Mark 10:13-16**

In this, we see, then and now, people - including Jesus' disciples - tend to push children into the background. Not so with Jesus!! When the disciples wanted to keep the children in the background or 'out of the way,' Jesus elevates them to a level of prominence!

When He says, "Let the little children come to Me... for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these!", Jesus is saying - 'these are My people, this is what My people are like!!! AND, they're important to Me!!... don't disrespect them, push them aside, or keep them in the background. In fact, you should hold them up as role models, because this is what people in heaven are gonna be like!!'

What is it about children that Jesus adores? Like Him, they're humble, meek, trusting, dependent, by-and-large untainted by the world, unassuming, loving, accepting of others, not proud or boastful and more. In many of these traits - we jaded adults see weakness; but to these traits, Jesus ascribes strength.

Jesus told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Based on what Christ told him, Paul wrote, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses... For when I am weak, then I am strong." **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

In addition to children's humble, meek, trusting dependence; every child is created in the image of God.

*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* **Genesis 1:27**

Just bearing God's image - being an *image bearer* of God - makes each child worthy or respect!

So, what does this have to do with basketball? Let me tell you. As our courts are full of youth and children playing basketball, and our stands are full of brothers & sisters, parents, grandparents, in-laws, friends and neighbors, we need to keep these things in mind. ***Our league is not like other leagues.*** Winning isn't 'what its all about.' The other team is not the "enemy"... the other team is full of fellow image bearers, just like you, just like the children you love and adore because they're yours.

Competition is fine. Doing your best, trying to win - are fine as well. But when we cross the line between healthy hard work and competition to the point of cheering against the other team, yelling at refs or coaches when things don't go our way, or at our own kids for making mistakes; we've crossed the line and we don't honor Jesus as our league is designed to do.

When we respect others as fellow image bearers, we can be happy for another team's success, happy for a young child's first basket, ever - even when he's on the other team, encouraging to our own children despite their mistakes, and grateful that the refs and coaches are even there for our kids - even if some of their 'calls' and decisions don't go our way!! Years from now - maybe even a few months from now - no one will remember who won or lost, but people will remember being treated with love, dignity, and respect for the rest of their lives.

<sup>1</sup> This story is repeated with slight variation in Matthew 19:13-15 & Luke 18:15-17.

### Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**  
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm  
Middle & High School
- **Imagebearers**  
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm  
1st—5th grade
- **Mission Conference**  
Flag Ceremony  
Talent Show  
October 19th & 21st
- **Operation Christmas Child** November 22nd
- **Live Christmas Scenes**  
December 21st & 22nd



Photo by James Guffey

## 2006 World Missions Conference

"God's Last Command, Our First Concern"

Come join us in learning more about Missionaries around the world. This year's conference is full of activities and events for all ages.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Henry Krabbendam, Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Covenant College, Missionary and Trainer of Missionaries Worldwide

### Children's Conference

**Leader:** Susan Smith, Lower School Principal at SouthLake Christian Academy, Frequent Missionary Traveler

### Schedule:

#### Thursday, Oct. 19

7:00 PM—Opening Ceremony & Worship, Children's Conference  
8:00 PM—Refreshments & Fellowship with Missionary Guest

#### Friday, Oct. 20

6:00 PM—Covered Dish Dinner  
7:00 PM—Worship Service, Children Conference  
8:00 PM—Dessert & Fellowship with Missionary Guest

#### Saturday, Oct. 21

6:00 PM—Tom Barton's BBQ Dinner, Please Sign Up  
7:00 PM—Variety & Gong Show Plus Missionary Presentations

#### Sunday, Oct. 22

8:30 AM—Worship Service  
9:15 PM—Continental Breakfast  
10:00 AM—Sunday School with Missionary Speakers  
11:00 AM—Worship Service



### Basketball News

#### Bobcats Clinic/Game

This is your child's chance to "learn from the Pros"! The deadline date has been extended to *Oct. 21st*. If you have any questions, please ask your coach or contact Grover Rodgers.

#### League Day

*Sunday, Nov. 12th.*

Plan to attend either our 8:30am or 11:00am worship service with your team.

#### Team Pictures

*Saturday, Oct 21st.*

Teams #	Time
1 and 2	9:00 AM
3 and 4	9:15
5 and 6	9:30
7 and 8	9:45
9 and 10	10:00
11 and 12	10:15
13 and 14	10:30
15 and 16	10:45

#### Things Parents can say to their children:

##### Before the game:

*I love you  
Do your best  
Have fun*

##### After the game:

*I love you  
It was great to see you play  
What would you like to eat?*

### Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my rock,  
my fortress and my deliverer;  
my God is my rock,  
in whom I take refuge.  
He is my shield and the  
horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold.

### It's OUR kids we're talking about

An Exert from *In My Opinion* by T. Tomlinson, Posted Oct. 6, 2006 in the Charlotte Observer

Four Health Professionals met in Mecklenburg Co. to discuss the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. It's a national report, but some counties get their own results and Mecklenburg county was one of them. Here are a few of the numbers.

- ~25% said they'd recently been in a car with a driver who'd been drinking.
  - ~10% said they had sex before they turned 13.
  - ~5% had carried a weapon to school in the past month.
- And nearly **1 in 8** said they had attempted suicide in the past year.

Maria Bonaiuto, the director of school health services for the Mecklenburg Co. Health Dept., said the federal survey has been going on for more than 15 years. The results over the years have been consistently accurate. Why?

- **Pressure.** Some teens with absent parents basically run their households. Others feel pressured to bulk up for a football scholarship or study all night for a shot at the Ivy League.
- **Society.** Teens live in a world where everything runs at microwave speed.

"We're in an instant generation," Bonaiuto said. "So many kids run into a situation where there's a problem with no instant solution, and there's another problem with no instant solution ... and pretty soon there's this mountain of problems and nothing's getting solved."

- **Disconnectedness.** Some teens think they don't have anyone to talk to.

"We'd like for that connectedness to be with parents, of course," said Linda Gallehugh, executive director of the Teen Health Connection. "But if the parents aren't around, we need to find somebody that these kids feel comfortable with."

Teenagers have always felt that any given slight or any bad day could be the worst thing that ever happened in the history of the world. But we've built a society that tells teens their little decisions *are* life-changers -- that somehow a good grade on a test can be the difference between Easy Street and the soup kitchen.

Ease up a little. That's a message for kids.

And here's one for parents, courtesy of Dr. Kristin Rager, who works with Levine Children's Hospital and with the Teen Health Connection. "Think about what this survey says," she said. "And don't think that it's about somebody *else's* kids."



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

#### Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship Service

#### Evening Service

6:30 Worship Service

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Team Rosters  
Game Schedule  
Parent's Corner