

CHILD OF FAITH?

Jesus compared the people of His own generation to wavering children who couldn't make up their minds about Him. In Luke 7:28-35 He says "*this generation is like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'we played the flute for you and you did not dance, we sang a dirge and you did not weep'.*" Like children who can't play happy or sad.

OUR GENERATION - A similar consumer mentality plagues us. Perhaps you love the Jesus who preaches love, but not the one who preaches repentance. Maybe you read the Gospels, but not the Epistles, or the New but not the Old Testament. Maybe you attend church, but don't sing or pray, not really participating in worship. Just watching. Or you serve on a committee only when you can get your way. You prefer your comfortable little personal preferences.

Maybe you get upset, like children, when the Bible upsets your just-so world. We live in an age of people depressed by technology. Church hoppers. People flock to churches which entertain them, or which copy those on broadcasts, with 'Christian love-songs' which seem to simply echo the world's music, with the unbiblical health-wealth prosperity gospel.

MANY CHOICES - Maybe you recognize slick worldly philosophizers and how-to-get-aheaders, with all their flash and glitz which appeals to 'spiritual power' but is devoid of the real power of the Holy Spirit to regenerate people to salvation and obedience to Christ by repentance and faith. Amen? Consumer mentality wants to keep all options open. No commitments.

Do you treat Jesus, the Bible, or church like a marketplace? "Ultimately such people want God to dance to their tune. But nothing will please the heart that feels no sin," observes RK Hughes. "What a grace it is to feel your need. What a grace to stand still as you mourn your sins with a dirge, confessing them to God and repenting. Then dance to the music of heaven's free grace."

TREE & FRUIT - Jesus speaks powerfully to this in verse 35, "*yet wisdom is justified by all her children.*" This points to verses 28-30, and the people who had been baptized by John in repentance were those who became children of the kingdom by receiving Jesus as the Christ. Those who rejected John's baptism "*rejected the purpose of God for themselves.*" And they personified what Jesus said in Luke 6:43, "*each tree is known by its own fruit.*"

"Jesus dispels the heretical notion of the Pharisees of redemption through segregation, keeping yourself from people known to be sinful," explains RC Sproul. "He goes out of His way to reach out to the lost of His generation." The wisdom of the Pharisees was shown to be false, ineffective. John preached repentance and pointed to "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," not to the work and ways of the Pharisees and lawyers of the religious establishment.

FAITH & FRUIT - The self-righteous would not repent nor receive Jesus as the Christ. Rather, they would crucify Him. But the fruit of those who received Christ would change the world.

"The outworking of God's wisdom in your life is a powerful and tantalizing testimony to a cynical world," relates Hughes. "Many unbelievers have seen the truth in the lives of Christian friends. Because divine wisdom has been '*justified by all her children*' we must abandon any delusions of self-sufficiency or innate goodness. Stop looking for a god small enough to allow us to pretend that our imperfect righteousness is okay. Stop looking for a salvation small enough to be earned."

CHILDLIKE FAITH - Jesus calls us not to a confused childish faith, but to childlike faith that trusts and obeys Him. You didn't hear Jesus preach or see His miracles, but you have the impeccable witness of God's written-down Word, and the divine witness of the Holy Spirit who regenerates sinners to faith, and assures of the truth of God's Word, empowering you to live it out.

"Are we children of wisdom?" asks JC Ryle, "taught by the Spirit to know the Lord Jesus Christ? Are the eyes of your understanding opened? The hour comes when the few who have confessed Christ and His ways to mankind will be confessed and justified by Him before His Father."

GO SHOW & TELL - Because it's a gift from Him, God knows if you have true saving faith. But your neighbor doesn't know until you show and tell him. What's the fruit of your faith? Everyone else can see it. Pray that you can too - as you bear the fruit of saving faith. In this generation, your generation, be a child of the kingdom. Be about the business of growing God's kingdom. By your words and deeds, according to His Word, and by His power within! ☐