



LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

December 2014

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

As a child photographer whose aim is to make pictures of children the way they truly are, without posing, I most prefer to photograph them at a young age. At that young age the world has not yet had a chance to spoil what God made them to be.

They're real, without pretense. They trust.

God's kingdom, where each of us is invited to be a citizen, belongs to those who, like such a child, will clearly and without doubt accept all that Jesus offers: His peace, His love, His hope. Children feel secure in their parents' care. If we could retain some of the child we have within, we too would feel secure. We would feel secure in our Heavenly Father's care. Trusting as a child trusts.

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“But I stopped being a child long ago,” you might say.

But did you? Did you really? Did your childhood completely leave you when you became an adult?

I don't believe it did. I believe that all of us carry a bit of a child within us throughout our lives. Even now—or maybe even more so now, at the age of sixty-eight—I can see glimmers of the child I was within me.

Looking back at my own childhood, I recall feelings that were much more intense today than those I have today as an adult. I loved my friends and family more deeply. The excitement that built as a birthday or Christmas approached knew no bounds. Joy made me bubble over. I remember the wonder and the innocence. I also remember times of vulnerability, acute pain, and fear. Occasionally all this resurfaces as I experience the ups and downs of life.

Do you too still have such memories and feelings? Can you still touch base with the child you were?

Don't lose your ability to be sensitive to this inner child. When Jesus talked about the kingdom of heaven belonging to children, He was also thinking about the child you have inside.

Jesus loves children in a very special way. And He loves you and the child you have within.

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