

# Man, Look at all Those Children!

The Blessings of our Children

Matthew 19:13-16

We have a multitude of children at Karns and we keep producing them in large numbers. Children are a blessing from God. They grow up and, at times, go where we do not want them to go; nevertheless, they are a special gift. Let us think about the blessings of our children.

## Opportunities to Shape Character (Prov. 22:6)

- "... bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).
  - Nurture body, mind, and spirit with care and pain.
  - Impart the culture of Jesus through discipline.
  - Admonish and correct.
- We are privileged to attempt with our children what God attempts with us (Eph. 4:14-15).

## An Exercise in Self-denial (cf. Lk. 9:23)

- The investment parents make in children is enormous!
- "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
- An "others" focus.

## A Lesson in Basic Christianity (Matt. 18:1-3; 11:25)

- They like stories—real life stuff.
- They see naked kings.
- They have no inborn prejudices.
- They love deep, unconditionally, and freely.
- They forgive and forget.
- Their trust is unquestioning.
- They see what we may have forgotten.
- I believe Adam and Eve were like this before Satan's offer of a better deal corrupted their souls.
- We need to be converted and be like little children (Matt. 18:3).
- As Joni Mitchell wrote, "We've got to get ourselves back to the Garden."

Look at them, our children. Treasure their innocence, learn from their uncorrupted virtues and remember lessons lost that need restoration. And, as Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young admonished, "Teach the children well."