

BIBLICAL BASIS FOR INCLUSION OF CHILDREN

a. We need to be very explicit & deliberate in our teaching of God and His ways to our children, not just waiting for them to be brave enough.

“Teach these words to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and get up. Write them on the doorframes...”

Deut. 11:19

b. Even very young children give praise to God. They are more than “decorations” waiting to grow into something.

“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.” Ps. 8:2

“Unless you change and become like little children (open, receptive, ready for a gift, trusting etc.) you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matt 18:33ff

c. There is a heart knowledge children have which adults sometimes don't.

“You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children.” Matt. 11:25

d. The Corinthians were warned about exclusion. This verse seems to refer to the selfish manner of participating and indulging while others go without.

“Whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment to himself.” 1 Corin. 11:29

e. We are further warned to be very careful how we treat our children.

“Whoever welcomes a little child welcomes me... see that you do not look down on one of these little ones.” Matt. 18:5

f. Children of the Old Testament took part in the covenant meal and parents were told to teach them of its meaning.

“Select the animals for your families; when your children ask, “what does this mean’ tell them...” Ex. 12:24

g. Jesus welcome children

“Let the children come to me.” Luke 18:16

h. The establishing of the New Testament church included specific reference that “the promise is for you and your children.” Acts 2:39