

The Care of God's Children

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 18.
- B. The theme is the child-likeness of the believer.
- C. We are not only to keep Christians from sin--we are to care for them.

II. God cares for his children.

III. God cares for his children equally.

- A. One enters into the kingdom of God through meekness. (1 Corinthians 1)
- B. The reason God has set things up this way is because he wants the glory. (Luke 4)

IV. The rule: take heed not to cause a Christian to sin

- A. This means not to look down on any believer.
- B. The world looks down on Christians. (Psalm 15)
- C. There are several ways this is done.
 - 1. By flaunting one's liberty.
 - 2. By thinking of some people as better than others. (James 2)
 - 3. By not waiting for everyone for the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11)
 - 4. By ridiculing how other people look. (2 Corinthians 10)
 - 5. By looking with indifference on a Christian who has fallen. (Galatians 6:1)
 - 6. By despising those who seek to discipline. (1 Corinthians 4:10; 16:10; Titus 2:15)
 - 7. By using a believer for our own selfish gain. (1 Thessalonians 4:6)

V. The reasons.

- A. Christians are related to angels. (Hebrews 1:14)
- B. Christians are related to Christ. (Luke 10:16)
- C. Christians are related to the Father. (Matthew 25)

Application Questions:

1. Why is it important to affirm God's equal care for all Christians?

2. What are some ways that we harm other Christians in their spiritual progress?

3. When have you been harmed by the actions of other Christians? What can you do to avoid doing the same?
