

“Don’t you dare!”

Parents are most sensitive when it comes to their children. “Don’t you dare hurt my child!” is not an uncommon response to one who is either careless or malicious with children. God take offense if His *little child* is put in danger too.

Though we include the literal “small child,” the term *little children* includes all of God’s people, big and tiny. We cannot *enter the kingdom of heaven unless we turn and become like children*, said Jesus... *Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 18:3-4 and Matthew 19:14).

Now, do you know someone like this? He or she may, or may not, be brilliant or talented in a worldly way, but God honors their humility and their earnestness to be innocent before Him. Therefore, “Don’t you dare hurt God’s child!” *But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea* (Matthew 18:6). Again, do you know someone like this? Don’t take lightly what God counts as important.

We may not be actively tempting or injuring God’s adult “*little child*,” but what about our disregard and unconcern? If we see him working his heart out, but he receives hardly any support, very little encouragement or help in his efforts, how long can he last without others to aid him or her, especially one who is young in Christ? Instead, *Encourage one another and build one another up* (1Thes 5:11). *But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life* (Jude 20-21). Let us look around us and see the children.

JD