

# DON'T STOP THEM!

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On Thanksgiving Day we had 23 family members in our home. Seven of them were children.

Children bring energy. Children bring laughter. Children bring chaos.

And such were some of you.

A previous generation said, "Children should be seen, but not heard."

In today's fatherless cultures, many parents, especially dads, have spoken with their feet, "Kids are like toys—to be used, then discarded."

Jesus Christ thought differently. Two thousand years ago, His disciples considered His thoughts about children so significant, so culture-shifting, that they should be captured in writing. And His thoughts are worth highlighting today.

Perhaps His divine perspective will shift our attitudes and thoughts and behavior again. Perhaps His insight will establish a new norm of respect and care for the young people among us.

*Mark 10:13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.*

*<sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw what was happening, He was angry with His disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them!"*

*"For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. <sup>15</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."*

*<sup>16</sup> Then He took the children in His arms and placed His hands on their heads and blessed them.*

Today, of course, churches offer Sunday Schools, Children's Churches, Vacation Bible Schools, Christian Day Schools, Royal Rangers, Girls' Ministries, and a host of other ministries and activities aimed at discipling a generation of young people for Christ.

But all of these activities and events together cannot guarantee a generation of faithful young adults. All of these activities and events together cannot undo a culture of neglect or disrespect.

If the prevailing *attitudes* at home and in the local church do not support the ethic of the Bible, we may lose the battle for the souls of children in our community.