**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

September 18, 2022

Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Founding and* *Lead Pastor*

**The Jesus Way**

**The Way of the Child**

Matthew 18:2-4



In 1968, George Land (with Beth Jarman) conducted a longitudinal study to test the creativity of 1,600 children ranging in ages from three-to-five years old who were enrolled in a Head Start program. This was the same creativity test he devised for NASA to help select innovative engineers and scientists. The assessment worked so well he decided to try it on children. He re-tested the same children at 10 years of age, and again at 15 years of age. The results were astounding. **The proportion of kids who scored at the “Genius Level” were:**

* 3-5-yr-old: 98%
* 10-yr-old: 30%
* 15-yr-old: 12%
* Same test given to 280,000 adults (average age of 31): 2%

According to Land, the primary reason for this is that there are two types of thinking processes when it comes to creativity:

1. **Convergent thinking:** where you judge ideas, criticize them, refine them, combine them and improve them, all of which happens in your conscious thought.
2. **Divergent thinking:** where you imagine new ideas, original ones which are different from what has come before, but which may be rough to start with, and which often happens subconsciously.

He notes that throughout school, we are teaching children to try and use both kinds of thinking **at the same time**, which is impossible. Competing neurons in the brain will be fighting each other, and it is as if your mind is having a shouting match with itself.

https://www.ideatovalue.com/crea/nickskillicorn/2016/08/evidence-children-become-less-creative-time-fix/

***All children are artists.*** *The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.* Pablo Picasso

*Every school I visited was participating in the suppression of creative, genius. Genius is the innocent casualty in society's efforts to train children away from their natural born foolishness from cradle to grave,* ***the pressure is on, be normal****.* Gordon McKenzie

Maturity does not equal **conformity**.

True maturity always results in **diversity**.

We would rather have people conform to **us** than we would to **Christ**.

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be* ***transformed*** *by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* Romans 12:2

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* John 10:10

*My guess is that there was a time--perhaps when you were very young, when you had at least a fleeting notion of your own genius and you were just waiting for some authority figure to come along and validate it for you. But none ever came.* Gordon McKenzie

It is never too late to unlock your **inner** child.

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And* ***calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them*** *and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* Matthew 18:1–4

**The Way of the Child**

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up* ***childish ways****.* 1 Corinthians 13:11

There is big difference between **childish** and **childlike.**

Simplicity on the near-side of complexity is **childish.**

Simplicity on the far-side of complexity is **childlike.**

*Adults are obsolete children.* Dr. Seuss

**To be Child-like is …**

* To live in the **present.**
* To live with little or no **concerns** about money, productivity, or being cool.
* To live with no limits to our **imagination**.
* To **play** and **lose** ourselves in play.
* To **create** with abandon.
* To be endlessly **curious**, asking **questions**.
* To be **spontaneous**.
* To be filled with **joy** and **laughter**.
* To be **unselfconscious**!

*The truth is, part of me, is every age. I'm a three-year-old. I'm a five-year-old. I'm a 37-year-old. I'm a 50-year-old. I've been through all of them, and I know what it's like. I delight in being a child when it's appropriate to be a child. I delight in being a wise old man when it's appropriate to be a wise old man. Think of all I can be. I am every age up to my own.* Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie

*I like a young man in whom there is something old, I like an old man in whom there is something young.* Cicero

**Way of the Child Challenge**

* Go home and play a fun game as a family or friends.
* Over dinner, talk about a favorite memory.
* Write down 10 questions of things you don’t know, go and learn and ask more questions.
* Do something spontaneous this week.
* Ask the Lord to restore to you the joy of your salvation.