

**Five Traits of Kingdom Citizens—Part 1**  
**“Humility”**  
**Matthew 18:1-6**

- I. **A** \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1)
- a. **At that time** = right after the events of chapter 17, still in Capernaum, probably in Peter’s home
  - b. <sup>46</sup> **“An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest.”** (Luke 9:46)
  - c. Positives:
    - i. They did believe Jesus was the Christ
    - ii. They did believe in a **kingdom of heaven**
    - iii. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be great; if you understand what greatness is in the kingdom of heaven
  - d. Negatives:
    - i. They were expecting Jesus to name one of them as the greatest; even though He had repeatedly taught that in His kingdom greatness was exemplified in ...**“the poor in spirit...the meek...the merciful...the peacemakers...the persecuted”** (cf. Matt. 5:1-12)
    - ii. Jesus had just predicted His humble suffering and sacrifice
    - iii. They still wanted an earthly king to rescue them from the Romans and not a spiritual King would rescue them from sin (cf. Matt. 20:20-21; Luke 22:24; Acts 1:6)
- II. **A** \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 2-4)
- a. **child = paidion (παιδίον)** = “young child,” “below the age of puberty,” “a toddler” (cf. Mark 9:36)
  - b. In the ancient world children were treated like second-class citizens
  - c. In this chapter...we the church are the **little children**...the **lost sheep**...the **sinning brother**... and the **indebted servants** (cf. Matt. 18:1–6, 10, 12–14, 15–20, 21–35)
  - d. Jesus called **the child**, and he humbly came!
  - e. **“Truly I say to you,** = announcing a serious truth!
  - f. **unless you are converted and become like children** = the disciples were asking the wrong question!
    - i. **converted = strephō (στρέφω)** = “to turn around,” “to repent”
    - ii. There are only two paths you can go by (cf. Matt. 7:13-14; James 4:6; Matt. 23:12; cf. Ps. 138:6; Prov. 3:34; 1 Peter 5:5)
  - g. **humbles himself as this child** = not acting like immature children, but in this context of the disciples’ prideful desire for rank and privilege, the one clear trait of **this child** that all must adopt as Kingdom Citizens, is his HUMILITY!
    - i. **Humbles = tapeinoō (ταπεινῶ)** = “to make low” (cf. Phil. 2:3-11)
- III. **A** \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5-6)
- a. **whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me** = Jesus and church are inseparably intertwined (cf. Matt. 24:31-46; Acts 9:4; cf. Luke 10:16; John 13:20; 15:5; 1 Cor. 6:15; 12:27; Rev. 21:2, 9)
    - i. This unbreakable bond is what makes this warning so serious!
  - b. Believers must be careful that their freedom in Christ does not cause a brother or sister to stumble
    - i. **stumble = skandalizō (σκανδαλίζω)** which means “to cause someone to stumble or cease believing”
  - c. Unbelievers must beware the consequences of trapping or luring one of God’s children into sin or apostasy
    - i. **mylos onikos (μύλος ὄνικος)** = “millstone of a donkey”