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My Theological understanding of Children: Nurturing Faith and Spirituality

Any Ministry related to children and or families, should be composed of three foundational pillars, which are evangelism, discipleship, and development/ leadership development. Evangelism helps to engage new people(children, youth,etc), and present them with the Gospel; Discipleship helps to lead the children and youth to be more like Christ; And leadership development helps to equip current youth leaders and prepare young people for leadership within the church. Having a firm foundation on the principles that uncovers the true nature of Christ and his love for children will provide a clearer view of who he is and the relationship he wants with the children. It's not just built on the ministry design, themes, events, object lessons, or even crafts, there must be a precise Theological understanding of the ministry in order to have the vision fulfilled. Childhood is a period of rapid cognitive, emotional, and moral development. Theologically it is acknowledged that this phase of life is instrumental in shaping an individual's spiritual foundation. The theology of children posits that the early years lay the groundwork for a person's understanding of God, ethics, and the purpose of life. The ministry is a process, it's kingdom oriented, it's relational, it's Christ focused, and most importantly it's essential for the church's success.

When you are starting or revitalizing the children ministry it should be a process that isn't rushed but done incrementally throughout time(psalms 84:5). Through my experience within the ministry, children and youth require ample time to fully get the scope of their faith. So we must help them (with the help of the holy spirit) enter into the journey to guide them in order to grow spiritually and transform the world through God's power.

Theology of children requires children to accept Jesus' authority and understand/ be about his kingdom's purpose. This is why religious education plays a huge part in theological understanding, because it aims to provide children with a comprehensive understanding of their faith, its history, values, and biblical teachings. Which is why learning that it is a process is so imperative. Being kingdom minded is simply recognizing that yes we are citizens of the US, but we also have a citizenship within God's mighty kingdom in which Jesus embodied(Luke 17:21).

Being relational is also crucial in the success of reaching the children, having the understanding that Children are naturally inquisitive and filled with wonder. We as the ministry leaders should provide a ministry that is able to relate to the children and youth societal norms/ understanding while maintaining our christian values. Being relational also means that the children must personally meet and grow in their faith/ walk with christ. Our relationship with Jesus should be more important than all other relationships(Luke 14:26) (with the respect of family and or love ones.)

In Closing, my theological view of children is recognized through the child's individual spirituality, faith , and moral compass. Having a foundation isn't just based on the materialistic nature of the ministry, but also of the divine nature of Jesus' love for all his children.

Respectfully Submitted,

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