

Gospel Lighthouse Church  
3/30/25  
Youth Day

Understanding Our Inner Needs and Behavior

Text: Psalm 139:14-16; Matthew 19:13-15.

Introduction: We all have certain inner needs that shape us. They are crucial to our emotional, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. Needs unfulfilled cause behavior that does not serve us or others well. The Psalmist emphasizes, God is the creator and knows everything about us and how to shape our identity needs. In Matthew 19:13-15, how did Jesus' action address the four basic inner needs of children, a sense of belonging, a sense of value or worth, a sense of competence and sense of purpose?

"Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there."  
Matthew 19:13-15 NKJV

Jesus' actions in Matthew 19:13-15 beautifully address the four basic inner needs of children:

1. **A Sense of Belonging** – When the disciples tried to prevent the children from coming to Jesus, He openly welcomed them. By saying, "*Let the little children come to Me,*" He affirmed that they were accepted, loved, and had a place with Him. This showed they belonged in His presence, just as they are part of God's kingdom.

<u>Inner need</u>	<u>Void of need</u>	<u>Behavior</u>
• A sense of belonging	Insecurity (lack confidence)	Overcompensation, lows/highs emotionally
2. **A Sense of Value or Worth** – In a society where children were often overlooked, Jesus took time to acknowledge them. He did not just permit them to come; He desired their presence. By laying His hands on them and praying for them, He showed that they were significant, worthy of His time and blessing.

<u>Inner need</u>	<u>Void of need</u>	<u>Behavior</u>
• A sense of worth/value	Inferiority (not good)	Competition, self-doubt, seeking recognition
3. **A Sense of Competence** – Jesus' recognition of children as part of the kingdom of heaven implies that they are not insignificant or incapable. Rather, they are examples of faith and trust, qualities that even adults should learn from. This act showed their spiritual potential, and they had the ability to know and experience God.

<u>Inner need</u>	<u>Void of need</u>	<u>Behavior</u>
• A sense of competence	Inadequate (not enough)	Comparison, defensive attitude
4. **A Sense of Purpose** – By blessing the children, Jesus demonstrated that their lives had meaning and they were not just the future, but part of God's kingdom in the present. His actions showed they were valuable contributors to His plan and had a divine purpose to fulfill.

<u>Inner need</u>	<u>Void of need</u>	<u>Behavior</u>
• A sense of purpose	Illegitimacy (no purpose)	Compulsive drive, defeat, depression

Conclusion: Through His love, attention, and affirmation, Jesus met these fundamental needs, setting an example of how children should be valued, nurtured, and encouraged in their faith.

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