

Childlike Humility - 2

Matthew 18:1-9



re:generation

Begins 1/12

**Undecided? Visit week 1
before registering.**

**Registration will remain
open until 1/15.**



re:generation

LEAD Class

Isaiah: The Fifth Gospel

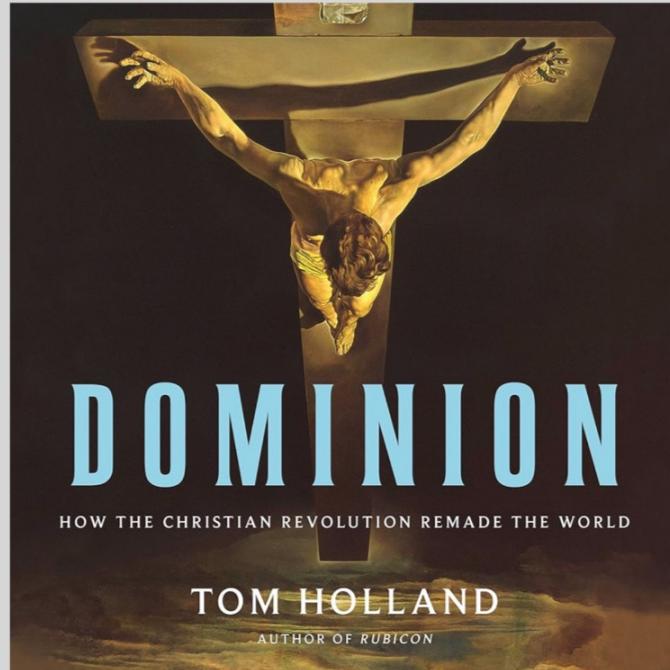
Dr. Mark Gignilliat

January 23 - 24, 2026





Tom Holland



“Across the Roman world, wailing at the sides of roads or on rubbish tips [dumps], babies abandoned by their parents were a common sight.

“Others might be dropped down drains,
there to perish in the hundreds.

“The odd, eccentric philosopher aside, few had ever queried this practice.

“Indeed, there were cities who by ancient law had made a positive virtue of it: condemning to death deformed infants for the good of the state.

“Sparta, one of the most celebrated cities in Greece, had been the epitome of this policy, and Aristotle himself had lent it the full weight of his prestige.

“Girls in particular were liable to be winnowed ruthlessly. Those who were rescued from the wayside would invariably be raised as slaves.

“Brothels were full of women who, as infants, had been abandoned by their parents.”

Tom Holland

“Until . . . the emergence of a Christian people.”

Tom Holland

“Do not despise these people in their abjection; do not think they merit no respect. . . . Reflect on who they are, and you will understand their dignity.

“They have taken upon them the person of our Saviour. For he, the compassionate, has given them his own person.”

Gregory of Nyssa

The Sermon on Relationships

1. The **basis** of relationships -
childlike humility (1-9)

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2. The value of relationships -
individual significance (10-14)

3. The upkeep of relationships - progressive communication (15-20)

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progressive communication (15-20)
4. The **healing** of relationships -
continual forgiveness (21-35)

childlike humility -
the sanity of self-forgetfulness

“Humility opens our eyes to the wonders all around us:

“it is sensitivity to reality, the turning of our narrow selves to the vast ocean of externality, and ultimately to God himself.

“In this way, humility is, in every circumstance, the key to joy, flourishing, and life itself.”

Gavin Ortlund

1. We are called to **be like** children. (2-4)

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“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (1b)

“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 18:2-4

We must “turn” from . . .

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- **self-sufficiency**

“the **sanity** of self-forgetfulness”

The gospel of Jesus opens our eyes to two unexpected realities:

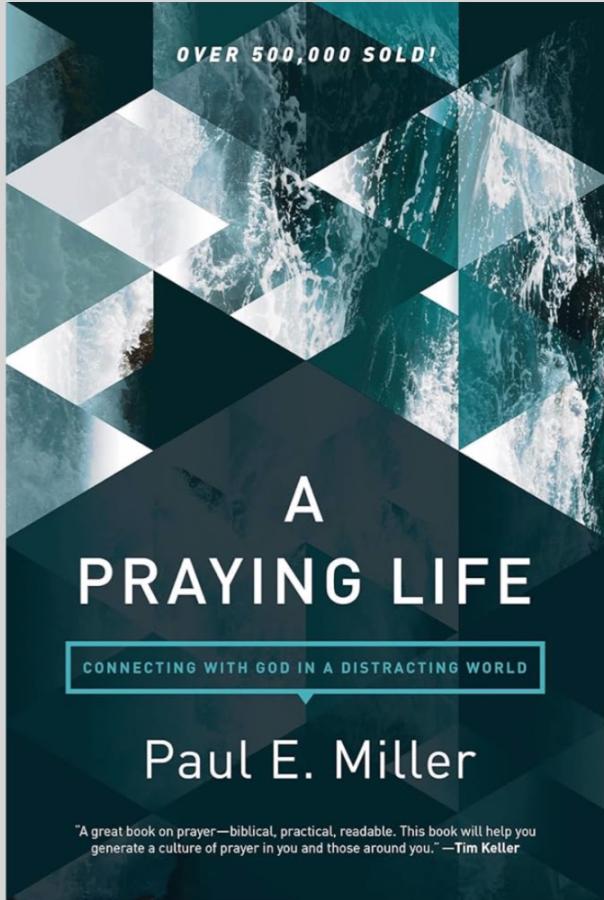
I am a worse sinner than I realized.

I am a worse sinner than I realized.

I am more loved than I imagined.

We must “turn” from . . .

- **cynicism**



“The opposite of a childlike spirit is a cynical spirit.”

Paul Miller

cynicism -

- is like **scar tissue**

“Those who will never be fooled can never be delighted, because without self-forgetfulness, there can be no delight.”

Alan Jacobs

cynicism -

- masquerades as **authenticity**

cynicism -

- usually follows frustrated **perfectionism**

cynicism -

- views **joy** as **naive**

cynicism -

- sees **hidden motives** in everyone

cynicism -

- questions the **goodness of God**

“Cynicism looks reality in the face, calls it phony, and prides itself on its insight as it pulls back.”

Paul Miller

Childlike humility looks reality in the face, recognizes the complexities, and humbles itself under the wisdom and goodness of God.

1. We are called to be like children. (2-4)
2. We are called to welcome children. (5-6)

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2. We are called to welcome children. (5-6)
“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,” (5)

“My university experience . . . was rich. I was a college athlete and editor of the campus paper.

“I had discovered a love for philosophy, and was thinking about going to graduate school. Life was great, an ocean of potential.

“And then I got a phone call that changed everything. Only one sentence of the conversation really mattered:

““I’m pregnant.””

“I had bought into the myth that children are nothing more than a drain, a financial drain, an emotional drain, a dream-killing drain.

“I viewed children as little more than vampires, sucking the lifeblood out of their parents.”

“I thought that having a baby was the worst thing that could have happened to me. I could not have been more wrong.”

Chris Kaczor

“They are invitations to ‘put on’ virtues like
gratitude, humility, patience, and
steadfastness.”

James K.A. Smith

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me . . .”

Matthew 18:5-6a

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. . . . Beloved, we are God’s children . . .”

1 John 3:1-2a

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”

Ephesians 5:1

“but whoever causes one of these little ones
who believe in me to sin,

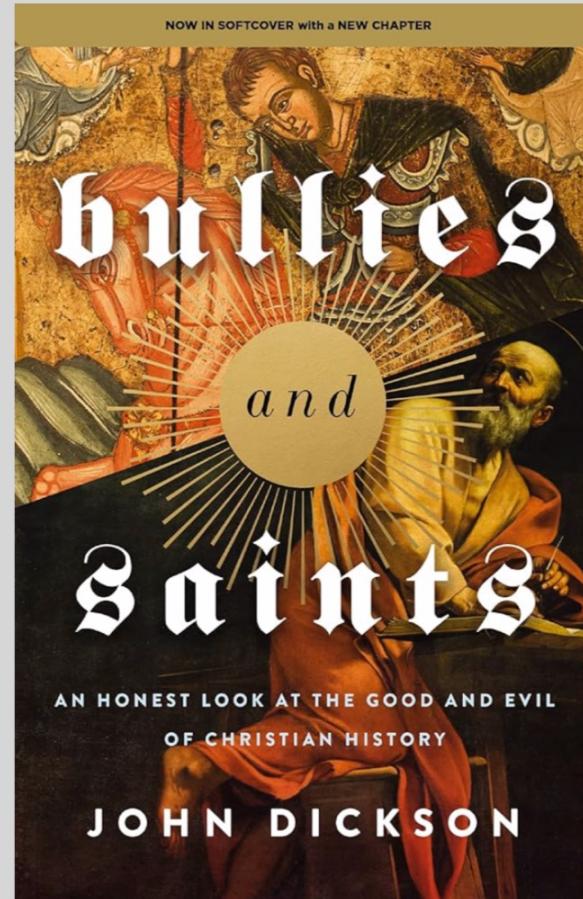
“it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

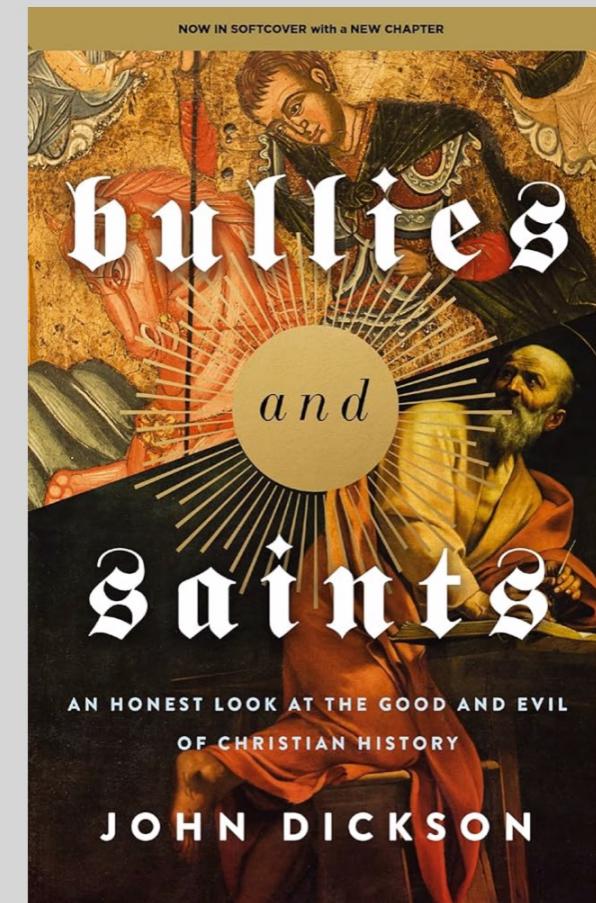
Matthew 18:6





1. We are called to be like children. (2-4)
2. We are called to welcome children. (5-6)
3. We are called to **protect** children. (7-9)





“the greatest moral reckoning for the church in a thousand years, perhaps ever”

John Dickson

“Martin Ridge’s investigations uncovered further allegations of misconduct, and in 1998 he arrested Father Greene.

“Suddenly, other witnesses came forward throughout Donegal.

“Greene was eventually sent to prison for raping and molesting 26 boys between 1965 and 1982.

“In a tragic reminder of the effects of these crimes, eight victims of clerical abuse are buried in the churchyard at Gortahork, Donegal, having taken their own lives.”

John Dickson

“No atheist or anticlericalist, no Voltaire or Ingersoll or Twain could have invented a story so perfectly calculated to discredit the message of the Gospel. . . .

“No external enemy of the faith could have sown so much confusion and dismay among the faithful.”

Ross Douthat

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

“And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.

“It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.

“And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.”

Matthew 18:7-9