

1. Little Children and Jesus—Luke 18:15-17; 9:46-47; Matthew 18:1-6; 19:13-15 (This is a well-known scene for many of us—a sweet snapshot of Jesus embracing children while holding their natural humility, innocence and faith as an example for us to imitate. Kind of gives us the warm fuzzies—as did our Celebration of Life earlier. Rarely do we think of this moment though as revolutionary or how radical the words of Jesus actually were. **Please listen as I read this—which will put this into its first century context.** So in the midst of this tender moment—Jesus is being Jesus. He is bringing into it something entirely new, different and challenging.)
2. (Another part of that) Reorientation Process –Romans 1:16; 12:1-2 (that I mentioned last week that flows from the call to be unashamed in 1:16—to live faith out in new ways in community; to change the way we think; the way we order our lives; of what we do and who we are; of how we think and act toward others.)
3. (Consider how this statement of Paul informs this process) 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (contextually it concerns Paul’s ministry of reconciliation—you know bringing together as one in Jesus all the various and diverse folks. To do so takes different thinking and a different approach—of not being ashamed of Christ or who is called to follow him)
4. “Suddenly, Everything is New!” (And so what can we learn from all of this?)
  - a. We shift our thinking away from a human point-of-view (so essential in being unashamed—bc if we do not, well, the cross makes no sense and is definitely something to be ashamed of)
  - b. Redefinition runs deep (why it is called a transformation and not merely an association)
  - c. Children provide the model (they are truly unashamed)
5. (And lastly—consider this text and what it speaks to all of this—of being unashamed; of living that out in community; of who Jesus is and who he wants us to be; of God’s radical love for us, for on many levels--having a Savior suffer makes about as much sense as having kids model faith. But I am glad for both) Hebrews 2:10-11 (*Now to conclude I go back to the words of Jesus—anyone who is unable to receive the kingdom—unashamedly BTW—like a little child cannot enter it. I think that was meant to get our attention—and I hope it has.*)