

Hugo Bouter

In My name

Greek: epi, and eis

Matthew 18:5, 20

Disciples of Christ must become like the children and humble themselves, in order to be great in the kingdom of heaven. For whoever receives such a little child in His name, "receives Me". But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Him to sin and stumble, should be punished (v. 6). We are talking about "little ones" who believe in Christ, true believers. So even young fellow Christians should be received and accepted on the basis of the rich value of the Name of Christ.

Becoming like a child, then, is the proper attitude and disposition to come together in, or gather to His name. In congregational discipline, one must bind or loose people in the name of Christ, the center of our gathering together. Since we are gathered to His name: "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them". Here, however, there is the danger of the misuse of the authority of His blessed name by human abuse of power, sectarian goals, and lordship over other believers. We should reject these things.
