

## **Initiating Child Conversion Theology and Practice within a Child Hostile Culture: An Afrocentric Perspective**

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The status of children is generally undermined and can never be taken seriously in most cultures particularly African. As such even child theology that places the very subject at the centre is a relatively novel pursuit. Predictably, child conversion is regarded as non-committal and to be revisited later during mature years when appreciation of that decision can supposedly be soberly made. These attitudes reminiscent of Jesus' disciples are interestingly antithetical to Jesus' own stance of not only welcoming children but depicting kingdom adherents via the receptivity of children. This paper explores first a theological understanding of child conversion and secondly, practical injunctions towards encouraging child conversions. In view of the much-publicized 4/14 window, the theological pursuit is necessary in that a well thought through premise acts a guide for practical application. Good theological framework always forms the bedrock for meaningful practice without which child conversion would remain indeterminable. In a culture that is already hostile to children such an exercise is not only of cardinal importance but very urgent.