

PUTTING AWAY CHILDISH THINGS

Text: 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 13:11

INTRO: There are several traits that are common to children -- some good, & some bad. It is desirable that we mature beyond many things that children commonly do. It is also appropriate that we encourage ourselves to maintain or develop those traits of childhood which are desirable. The English language recognizes these two different kinds of behavior as child-like, and childish.

I. WE MUST ENCOURAGE VARIOUS CHILD-LIKE CHARACTERISTICS.

A. Innocence & humility.

Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:3).

B. Faith, trust. "I wasn't afraid because my daddy was with me."

C. Sympathy. crippled bird, stray dog...

Rejoice with those who rejoice, & weep with those who weep. (Rom. 12:15).

D. Easily entreated. Talk kindly, usually cooperative.

E. Forgiving.

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. (Eph. 4:32).

II. BUT AS PAUL SUGGESTS IN OUR TEXT, THERE ARE DEFINITE CHILDISH BEHAVIOR PATTERNS THAT WE MUST OUTGROW AND PUT AWAY.

A. Gossip (tattling).

You shall not go about as a tale-bearer among your people... (Lev. 19:16).

And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, & not only idle but also gossips

& busybodies, saying things which they ought not.
(1 Tim. 5:13).

B. Undue desire for attention.

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of
God, that He may exalt you in due season.
(1 Pet. 5:6).

C. Envy, jealousy. Matt. 27:18

...Envy is rottenness to the bones. (Prov. 14:30).

D. Constant desire to be amused, entertained.

traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather
than lovers of God. (2 Tim. 3:4).

You have lived on the earth in pleasure & luxury; you
have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.
(James 5:5).

E. Grumbling, murmuring, complaining...

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for
peace & the things by which one may edify another.
(Rom. 14:19).

F. Be discourteous, cutting, ill-mannered.

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion
for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be
courteous. (1 Pet. 3:8).

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KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, April 6, 1975

La Porte, TX, December 12, 1976

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 3, 2000