
The Problem of Immaturity

I Cor. 13:11

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INTRODUCTION

1. It is a God-given duty to Grow Up – I Cor. 14:20.
 2. Being Christians demands that we be big men and women – I Cor. 16:13.
 3. But we always have the problem of putting away childish things in congregations.
 4. Adults should behave as adults.
 5. This does not come without effort; we should work daily at the problem of personality improvement.
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- I. WE SHOULD RETAIN SOME CHILDISH TRAITS – I Cor. 14:20.
 - a. Simple faith and trust.
 - i. We should have faith and trust in God – Prov. 3: 5 – 6; Heb. 11:6; Rev. 14:4.
 - b. Sympathy
 - i. Children are very compassionate and tender-hearted.
 - ii. We, like children, should be moved by the infirmities and misfortunes of our fellow beings – Rom. 12:15; Eph. 4:32.
 - iii. The Lord had compassion – Luke 7: 11 -16.
 - c. Forgiveness
 - i. Little children can fuss and fight and go back to playing together in thirty minutes.
 - ii. They hold no grudges – I Cor. 14:20 – “*In malice be ye children*”
 - iii. God forgives man and forgets it – Heb. 10:17.
 - iv. No less is expected of us – Col. 3:13; Matt. 6:13.
 - d. Humble – Matt. 18:4; I Pet. 5:6; Matt. 23:12.
 - II. SOME IMMATURE CHILDISH THINGS WE SHOULD PUT AWAY:
 - a. Tattling – A child is disposed to tattle.
 - i. He gossips because he thinks it will stand him in good with the person to whom he is talking, not being mature enough to comprehend what it may do to somebody else. We can overlook this in children, but not in adults.
 - ii. It has ever been God’s will that man refrain from talebearing.
 1. Lev. 19:16.
 2. I Tim. 5:16.
 - iii. Vainglory – It is characteristic of children to want attention.

1. Some adults are too much obsessed with the desire for special attention – Gal. 5: 26; Phil. 2:3.
- iv. Envy and Jealousy
 1. Envy crucified Christ – Matt. 27:18.
 2. *“But envy is the rottenness of the bones”* – Prov. 14:30.
 3. These are the works of the flesh – Gal. 5: 19 -21.
- v. All play and no work – Children do not like to work; they like to play.
 1. Many adults are just like children – they just want to play in this life and accept no responsibilities.
 2. Many want to just play church like children – Phil. 2:12.
- vi. Instability – Children are very changeable; you can put one to work, but it is hard to keep him at it.
 1. James talks about the immature adult – James 1:8.
 2. Successful living demands steadfastness – I Cor. 15:58.
- vii. Wrangling – Children have the disposition to argue, fuss, and quarrel.
 1. They seem to enjoy it.
 2. There are also many fussy adults who have not matured out of this childish state.
 3. I Pet. 3:11; Rom. 12:18; Rom. 14:19.
- viii. Discourtesy – One of the characteristics of the younger years is rudeness.
 1. Children are cruel.
 2. Some adults live in a similar state of immaturity – I Cor. 13:4; I Pet. 3:8.
- ix. Sullenness – Children are excellent pouters.
 1. They enjoy feeling they have been mistreated.
 2. If you forget one’s birthday or accidentally step on him under your feet he enjoys feeling he has been neglected or abused.
 3. Some adults are no different – they get more joy out of an oversight than the invitation to some function.
 4. The older brother of the prodigal son was a pouter – Luke 15: 25 – 32.