

Childish Things

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1 Cor. 13:11

1 Cor. 13:11, *“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”*

In this passage we see the Apostle Paul referring to things which should be put away when one becomes full grown.

He refers to a child as one who is half-informed and under-developed; one whose understanding is feeble and imperfect; one who has an imperfect view of things, and who knows little.

- A child would be thrown into fits of joy or grief at the slightest occasion, but self-control would come with maturity.
- A child would think, argue, and reason in a weak and inconclusive manner.
- A child has limited growth in the word. 2 Pet. 3:18, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*
- A child has no full knowledge of God’s word.
- A child does not use the language of a mature man.

There are some childish traits that we need never put away

Children are innocent, simple, pure, and blameless.

- Matt. 19:14, *“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- Matt. 5:8, *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”*
- 1 Tim. 5:22, *“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”*
- 1 Pet. 1:22, *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”*

Children have a desire for knowledge.

- 1 Pet. 2:2, *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*
- Matt. 5:6, *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”*
- Acts 17:11, *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*

Children have a forgiving spirit.

- Luke 23:34, *“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”*
- Eph. 4:32, *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*
- Col. 3:13, *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*

Children are capable of profound love, loyal and true.

Children love their siblings dearly, even though they have squabbles.

- Matt. 22:37, *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”*
- Matt. 5:44, *“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”*
- Matt. 19:19, *“Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”*

Children have trusting faith.

At a very young age children think their parents are very smart and can do no wrong.

Of course, as they grow they think their parents are dumb; that is, until they become adults themselves, then they once again think their parents are smart.

- Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*
- Matt. 6:33, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*
- 2 Tim. 1:12, *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*

There are some childish things that we need to put away

Children are often selfish.

Little children usually think only of themselves and their own desires, and not others. James 4:3, *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”*

An example of selfishness is the rich farmer. Luke 12:16-21, *“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”*

Children can be peevish and pouting.

They have to be humored and petted to be pleased. They can become peeved at others over little things.

Example of the older brother in the story of the prodigal son. Luke 15:28-29, *“And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:”*

Jealousy is a childish trait.

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him.

- 1 Cor. 13:4, "*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*"
- Prov. 14:30, "*A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.*"
- Gal. 5:26, "*Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*"

Children tattle, bear tales, and gossip.

Paul and Peter warn against tattling and gossiping.

- 1 Tim. 5:13, "*And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*"
- 1 Pet. 2:1, "*Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, all evil speakings,*"
- 1 Pet. 4:15, "*But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*"

Children continually desire new toys.

They seek to have a good time. 1 John 2:15, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*"

Conclusion

We need our lives to continue developing until we have grown in the word of God.

We need to be spiritual-minded and not carnal-minded.

When members of the body of Christ put away childish things, they will be moving on to perfection.

