

*Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church*  
Winter Bible Study - February 22, 2021

“Time To Put Away Childish Things”  
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I took my subject title from 1 Corinthians 13:11, where the Apostle Paul said, ***“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.”*** This verse shows the normal growth and development that should take place as we spiritually mature. This was true with Jesus! (See Luke 2:52)

Brother Miller, in his good lesson, mentioned the four stages of physical growth in humans. They are; Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood. It is easy to observe the growth of the body, to see the changes in personality, and the intellectual development of the mind, as well as improved conduct and behavior. But age alone does not guarantee maturity, either in the physical realm, or in it the spiritual realm.

Becoming a child (a person) requires a birth experience, and becoming a child of God requires a birth experience as well. Upon being saved we are described by both the Apostle Peter, and the Apostle Paul, as ***“newborn babes in Christ”***; but, it’s not normal to remain an infant. There is a prescribed formula for us to ***“grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”***.

I have observed many professions, who were like the nine lepers Jesus cleansed, who never returned to say, ***“Thank You Lord for making me whole”***. (Luke 17:11-17) (I say professions, because we can only go by what people say, we can’t see into their hearts) I am afraid that there are some, perhaps many, who were truly, born from above, that have been ***“led away with the error of the wicked (one) and fell from their own (Personal) steadfastness”***, (2 Peter 3:17)  
We are to work out (cultivate) our own salvation. (Philippians 2:12-13)

Paul, to the Church at Corinth, said, ***And I, brethren could not speak unto you as unto spiritual but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: ... for you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal..... and walk as men.***” (1 Corinthians 3:1-3) (Carnality refers to things pertaining to the flesh; things that are not spiritual. Carnality, is the same reason why we are not spiritually minded today.

Paul wrote, in Hebrews ***“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; (divine communications, of God’s word and will to man) and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. for everyone that uses milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, (mature) even to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*** (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Physical and intellectual maturity, or the state or fact of being mature, is not automatic: it must be achieved, or attained by desire and effort, through study, dedication, and discipline.

The same is true of spiritual maturity: It takes the desire to, “... *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18) It means, “... *presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service;*” It also means, “*renewing your mind*” through the study of the word of God, “...*that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*” (Romans 12:1-2)

As Christians we must discipline our own selves, if we want to please the Lord. We need to be associated with like minded people. That’s why church affiliation is so important, and why faithful attendance is also important. The word of the Lord says, “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith, without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: (encourage each other) not forsaking the assembling of our selves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting (strongly urging) one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

**I want to refer you to Ephesians Chapter 4:1-15**, for a better understanding: Verse one, Paul beseeches (begs) us to walk worthy of our vocation. (Not a calling to preach, but our calling to Christian service) with all lowliness and meekness, (humble spirit) with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, (being patient, easygoing, understanding, and forgiving with each other.) Then, Paul exhorts us to unity; and unity demands peace with each other. **These are steps in spiritual growth and maturity!**

The Lord provided assistance for growth, in the form of Christian teachers. “And he gave some, Apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelist; and some pastors and teachers; **Purpose:** For the perfecting of the saints, (saved people) for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (the church) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; so we won’t be deceived by false doctrine. “But ....may grow up into him in all things...” V. 15.

As individuals, we should, personally, desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby. We are to study to show ourselves approved unto God, but we are not “islands”unto ourselves. Not one of us is the “center piece“ of our church. **“Jesus Christ is Lord!”** “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Col. 3:23-24) We are united in faith and practice for the purpose of promoting and advancing the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We should “strive for perfection” not in selfish pride, but in loyal service to our Lord **in the ministry of the church**, to reach the lost, and be a moral and spiritual influence in our community.

## **Foolish Things That Should Be Put Away**

There are some natural, immature traits in children, that are common to all, because of the inherited sinful nature, and not yet being fully developed through education and training. Proverbs states it like this, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." (Proverbs 22:15) The operative word here is correction! The need for instruction, training, and education that hopefully every child will receive. Oftentimes we are entertained by their childlike ways, and we say, "cute" or "You are so silly".

I want to add a disclaimer at this point: I am not a psychiatrist, or a physiologist, but I have observed a lot of human nature, in my years as a pastor.

There are many emotional traits in the nature of mankind, both men and women, that will remain with us as long as we live. They do not disappear as we get older; but fortunately as we grow spiritually, we can learn to control them, because they are not becoming to mature Christian adults.

I'm going to list a few of these natural traits (**feelings that are easily excited**) that we have, which continue with us, even after we are saved, and occasionally manifest themselves, and make us look bad; things that are hurtful to our character as Christians.

**Selfishness** - Lacking consideration for others; concerned only with self will, and what I want.

**Anger** - Being annoyed to the point of being unfriendly, antagonistic, and hostile to others.

**Jealous** - A form of envy, and displeasure because of the achievements of others. The feeling that this honor should have been mine. Jealousy lies dormant in the heart, not in the bones.

**Gossip** - Spreading rumors/stories about a person, that makes the subject look bad.

**Pride** - The excessively high opinion and feeling of one's self, or one's importance.

**Vengeance** - The desire to get even, or make someone pay for an injury or suspected wrong.

**Holding a Grudge** - Unwillingness to forgive someone for a trespass or past wrong.

These are a few of the childish things, that we, who have grown from a "babe in Christ" into a mature, spiritually minded Christian, should put away and never ever put on display.