

Mature Children!

# Childish Ways

- Childish Ways

## Childish Ways

When I was a child, I spoke like a child,  
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.  
When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.  
1 Corinthians 13:11

- Gave up Childish Ways

- 1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

## Childish Ways

But to what shall I compare this generation?  
It is like children sitting in the marketplaces  
and calling to their playmates.

Matthew 11:16

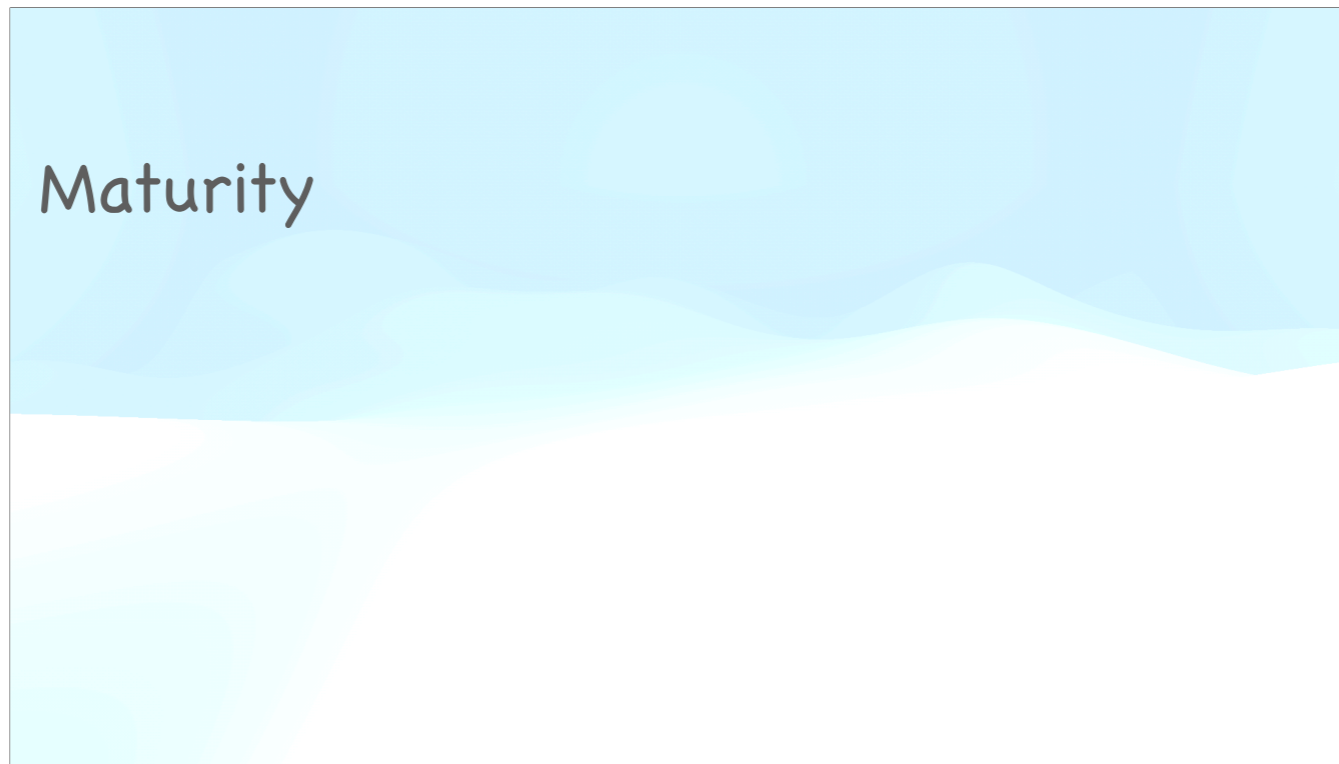
- Children calling to playmates
- Matthew 11:16-19 (ESV) 16 “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, 17 “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

## Childish Ways

For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed,  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.

Matthew 13:15

- Matthew 13:10-15 (ESV) 10 Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” 11 And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ““You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” 15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’



- The Imperative of Growing Up

# Maturity

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,  
that by it you may grow up into salvation—

1 Peter 2:2

- Newborn Infants ... Grow Up
- 1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

Maturity

since you have become dull of hearing  
Hebrews 5:11

- You Ought to be ...
- Hebrews 5:11-14 (ESV) 11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.



Maturity

by this time you ought to be teachers  
Hebrews 5:12

- 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.

Maturity

since he is a child  
Hebrews 5:13

- You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

Maturity

solid food is for the mature  
Hebrews 5:14

- 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Maturity

go on to maturity  
Hebrews 6:1

- Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

# Maturity

I press on  
Philippians 3:12, 14

- Philippians 3:12-16 (ESV) 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

# Maturity

Let those of us who are mature think this way  
Philippians 3:15

- Philippians 3:12-16 (ESV) 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

# Maturity

that we may present everyone mature in Christ  
Colossians 1:28

- Mature in Christ
- Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

## Become Like Children

- But Jesus presents a completely different thought



## Become Like Children

unless you turn and become like children,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven  
Matthew 18:3

- Matthew 18:1-6 (ESV) 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

## Become Like Children

Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:14

- Matthew 19:13-15 (ESV) 13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, 14 but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” 15 And he laid his hands on them and went away.

## Mature Children

- Mature Children
  - There's a paradox ... this should push us to deeper thoughts
  - The common interpretation (humble) may not be sufficient.
    - I think there's more here

# Mature Children

unless you turn and become like children,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven  
Matthew 18:3

- Jesus doesn't emphasize just having the nature of a child
- TURN
  - There's something that's happened to us as we've grown up.
  - And it's something that we need to change
  - But what happens to children as they are growing?
    - What is that we have learned?
    - What needs to be unlearned?
    - What must we learn again?

## Mature Children

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom,  
although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the  
rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.  
1 Corinthians 2:6

- Church in Corinth
- 1 Corinthians 2:6 (ESV) 6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.
- Many in Greece were very proud of their culture of wisdom
  - Aristotle, Plato, Socrates, etc.
  - They loved hearing new things (Athens)

## Mature Children

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although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the  
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1 Corinthians 2:6

- We are not far different
  - We still honor these men of the past, but also modern (Einstein, Musk, et. al.)
  - We make a big deal about degrees and publications
- There is still a wisdom of the world, a wisdom that comes from the mind of man
  - (It's not always wrong)
- Proverbs 4:7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.
- Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

## Mature Children

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.  
1 Corinthians 3:1

- 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (ESV) 1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

## Mature Children

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.  
1 Corinthians 3:1

- Spiritual vs. flesh
  - flesh is infants in Christ (This is the growth encouraged in other passages)
    - The implication is that they hadn't changed... still thinking like the world.
    - Evidence is poor behavior that is selfish.



## Mature Children

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking.  
Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.  
1 Corinthians 14:20

- 1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV) 20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.
- This sounds like the opposite of what I'm arguing, I know.
- Again it's about two ways of thinking ...
  - Are we thinking like the world and the flesh?
  - Are we going to think like God and be spiritually minded?

## Mature Children

Know then that it is those of faith  
who are the sons of Abraham.

Galatians 3:7

- Galatians 3:7-9 (ESV) 7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
- Faith ... sons of Abraham ... blessed



Brothers, do not be children in your thinking.  
Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.  
1 Corinthians 14:20

- God wants you to be mature, to grow up spiritually
  - Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV) 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- A large part of this is turning how we think.
  - We've learned the ways of the world, the flesh.
  - Now we need to think like our Father thinks.
  - James 3:13ff
  - Spiritually mature thinking and living and behavior
    - LOVE!

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Children of God

#02

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## Mature Children!

Synopsis: Considering the paradox of our imperative to mature in Christ and yet turn and be like children. It seems the emphasis on the contrast between worldly wisdom and wisdom that comes from God.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**