

Course of Personal Development

■ Introduction

■ Maturing is part of human development

- 1CO 13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

■ God expects us to stand firm and act like adults

- 1CO 16:13 ¶ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Course of Personal Development

- Yet, there are child like traits God wants us to retain
 - Simple faith and trust
 - Sympathetic
 - Forgiving

Child Like Traits To Retain

- Simple faith and trust
 - Absolute trust in their parents
 - Even when the parents are concerned
 - Such as an auto mishap, severe weather conditions etc.
 - Yet, kids assume that it's going to be ok.

Child Like Traits To Retain

- Simple faith and trust
 - God expects the same of His children
 - ISA 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation."
 - PRO 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Child Like Traits To Retain

■ Sympathy

■ Children are compassionate and tender heart.

- ROM 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- Counteracting envy, jealousy and bitterness.
- EPH 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Child Like Traits To Retain

■ Forgiving

■ Children don't hold grudges.

■ When God forgives, He forgets

- HEB 10:17 "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." (Jer.31:34)

■ He expects the same of us.

- MAT 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

■ This is being forbearing

- COL 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Course of Personal Development

- There are child like traits God wants us to put away

- Tattling
 - Attention seeking
 - Envy and jealousy
 - All play, no work
 - Instability
 - Wrangling
 - Discourtesy
 - Sullenness
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Course of Personal Development

- There are child like traits God wants us to put away
 - Being born again, we grown into new creatures
 - 1PE 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - 1PE 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

■ Tattling

- Gossip in adult terminology, since the only ones to tattle to are other adults
- God has never put up with this
 - LEV 19:16 'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the Lord.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Tattling - gossip
- Something we're susceptible when we don't have enough to do.
 - 1TI 5:13 At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Tattling - gossip
- Something brethren fall into when not busy working.
 - Can be overcome by:
 - Getting to work
 - Focus on our own shortcomings, and not bothering with our brother's shortcomings.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Tattling - gossip

- Not that we should overlook sin

- JAM 5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

- But we first must clean up our own

- LUK 6:41 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Attention seeking
- Children need and crave attention
 - But then transition to adults, who are expected to give attention
- Something God wants us to grow out of
 - GAL 5:26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.
 - 2755g kenodoxos - vainglorious (1)

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Attention seeking
- Developing a sense of humility
 - 1PE 5:6 ¶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Envy and jealousy
 - Children can envy each others toys, games, clothes etc.
 - As adults we envy the success, business, possessions etc. of another.
 - PRO 14:30 A tranquil heart is life to the body, But passion is rottenness to the bones.
 - 7068 qinah - ardor, zeal, jealousy (1)
 - envy in KJV

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Envy and jealousy
- Envy motivated the Jews to murder our Lord
 - MAT 27:18 For he knew that because of envy they had delivered Him up.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- All play, no work
 - Work is not something that children tend to enjoy and appreciate.
 - They often start wanting to help with various chores, but then want to move on to play
 - Unless taught the value, pride, joy (not necessarily happiness) of that work.
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Child Like Traits To Put Away

- All play, no work
- Work is something that God expects of us.
 - 2TH 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- All play, no work
 - Furthermore, God expects us to work to help others
 - EPH 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.
 - A two edged sword
 - Responsibility of those working beyond their needs.
 - Caution not to work merely to maintain my needs.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- All play, no work

- God expects us to work in His vineyard.

- Not just playing church, but working in the church

- Not adapting a trait of the Pharisees

- Including helping with work they expect of the church

- MAT 23:4 "They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

■ Stability

- Children are like gerbils, running from interesting thing to the other next
 - Can start eagerly on a project, but find it difficult to stick with it, and finish it.
- In reality, it's often hard to stick to a project,
 - Through the problem solving necessary to complete it.
- An aspect of being steadfast
 - 1CO 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.
 - Working the project to completion
 - Through all the problems and difficulties
 - Not that a Christian can't adjust course

Child Like Traits To Put Away

■ Wrangling

- Children have a disposition to argue, fuss and quarrel

- As adults, our culture seems to assume that if we don't get in the last word in, that we're wrong and know that we're wrong.

■ God expects better of us

- 2TI 2:14 ¶ Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.

- PRO 17:14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

- PRO 20:3 Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

- Wrangling undermines peace, which God values in His people
 - 1PE 3:11 "He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.
 - ROM 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
 - ROM 14:19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

■ Discourtesy

- Children can be very rude and even cruel
 - They harass each other
 - Feeling unsure of themselves, they try to build themselves up by tearing others down.
- Adults haven't always outgrown this
 - Criticizing and degrading others
- Here too, God expects better of us
 - 1CO 13:4 ¶ Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,
 - The idea isn't to make others weep, but to
 - ROM 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

■ Sullenness

- Children will let you know when they feel they're being "neglected", or feel "abused", or "mistreated".
 - To the point of even feeling satisfaction over expressing their malcontent
 - Note: In our current degenerate society, there are many children who truly are neglected, abused and mistreated.

Child Like Traits To Put Away

■ Sullenness

■ Ahab did this as an adult

- 1KI 21:4 So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food. 5 ¶ But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?"
- 5620 sar - stubborn, resentful, sullen, implacable (3)
- So fixated on this one pursuit, that he couldn't or wouldn't recognize his many other blessing and opportunities.
- He could have diverted his own attention to matters that he did have opportunity to do.
 - Instead, he became a party to murder.

Course of Personal Development

■ Conclusion

- In faith, trust, sympathy and forgiveness,
 - Let us be more like children
- When it comes to tattling (gossip), attention seeking, envy, jealousy, playing when we should be working, instability, wrangling, discourtesy, sullenness
 - Let us act like men, 1Cor.16:13

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■ Reference

- Brownlow, Leroy, "The Christians' Everyday Problems, Strength for daily living", Brownlow Publishing Co., 1966