

“Wait ‘Til I Grow Up”

*“When I was a child, I talked like a child,
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child...”*

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

As I grow older I find it easy to recall things from my distant past such a family picnics, working on my grandmother’s farm, fishing at the trout pond behind her farmhouse and other pleasant things. Happily I do not recall many unpleasant things that happened in childhood.

As a child I could hardly wait until I grew up so I would be able to make decisions for myself. Having to answer to my parents seemed like such a boring existence. As an adult I would do exactly what I wanted to do and no one would say, “No.” to me. Being my own boss sounded great. My, oh my, I had a lot to learn about life.

I believe that most children think as I once did. It is the childish notion that being an adult would mean total freedom. We would make lots of money and have expensive things. Then as we grew up we discovered that life as an adult was not as much fun as we formerly thought. Life served us up some difficulties in health, finances, or family matters. Now being a child looks much better than this adult thing.

Yet, there is no return to childhood and the security of having others take care of you. Life has to be lived looking forward. There is no turning back. In youth there is the notion that you know everything. Once you become an adult there is the humbling realisation that you do not know it all and life can be more than you are able to cope with.

Although we are able to manage a lot of life’s problems something usually comes along that makes us realise that we are not up to the task of coping on our own. Then we feel like that little lost child who needs a lot of assistance. We are unable to care for ourselves. That is the moment when we look for supernatural assistance. This is where the biblical message is so relevant.

Jesus made an amazing invitation, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest [relief] for your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV). This is the same invitation that

Jehovah gives in Jeremiah 6:16. In Matthew, Jesus offers the same relief in His own name!

Jesus makes the staggering claim to have adequate resources to meet the needs of all who come to Him. He makes the invitation to all to come to Him and admit their inability to cope. He urges us to learn from Him what life is really all about. It is when we give up our personal ambitions and submit to His will (take His good, kind yoke).

To really grow up is to learn what we were created for which is to love and serve our Creator. Having learned why God made us we are to joyfully submit to serving and delighting ourselves in Him.

Have you grown up in the biblical definition of the expression? Jesus invites you to come to Him and grow into the person He wants you to be. The invitation is given. Accept it and do so now.

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