
Child or Adult?



Have you heard...?

- “Act your age!”
- “Grow up!”
- “Stop being a baby!”
- “How immature!”
- “How juvenile!”
- “Snowflake!”
- “Peter Pan Syndrome”, “Adult Child Syndrome”
- “Don’t be so serious!”
- “Chill out ... lighten up!”
- “Stop to smell the roses!”
- “Don’t sweat the small stuff.”
- “Live a little.”
- “Let your hair down.”
- “Listen to your inner child.”

Contradiction?

□ Mark 10:14-15

- *“Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. “Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.””*

□ 1 Cor. 13:11

- *“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”*

Contradiction?

□ 1 Pet. 2:1-2

- *“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”*

□ Heb. 5:12

- *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.”*

Contradiction?

□ Phil. 2:15

- “*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”*

□ Eph. 4:11-15

- “*And He Himself gave some to be ... evangelists ... pastors ... teachers, ... for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,”*

An Appropriate Response

- Sometimes we need to be more child-like
- Sometimes we need to be more grown-up
- And sometimes we need to be both



- An obligatory disclaimer – generally speaking

Positive Attributes of Children

- ❑ Innocence
- ❑ Trusting
- ❑ Loving
- ❑ Curious
- ❑ Joyful



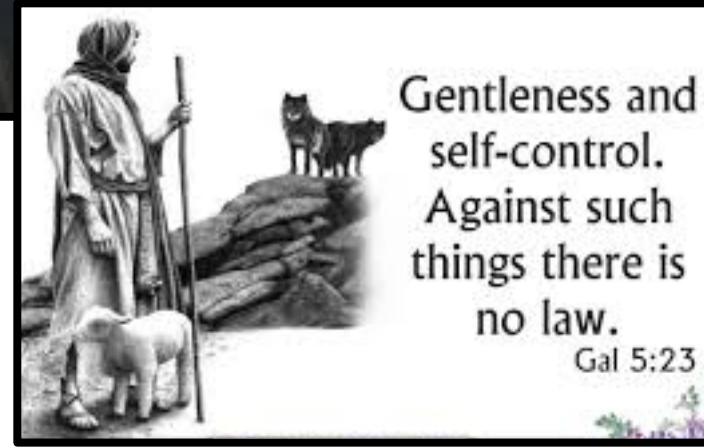
Negative Attributes of Children

- ❑ Lack of knowledge
- ❑ Reactive, foolish (“he didn’t think”)
- ❑ Self-centered
- ❑ Selfish (“mine”)
- ❑ Lack of emotional control



Positive Attributes of Adults

- ❑ Knowledgeable
- ❑ Wise
- ❑ Selfless
- ❑ Self-controlled



Gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Gal 5:23

Negative Attributes of Adults

- ❑ Lacking common sense
- ❑ Human wisdom
- ❑ Pride



Composite View

Characteristic	Child	Mature	“Too Adult”
Curiosity	Highly curious	Curious, but cautious	“Know it all”
Knowledgeable	Innocent	Knowledgeable	Highly educated in the wrong things
Wisdom	Naïve	Godly wisdom	Cunning
Trust	Trusting	Trust, but verify	Skeptic
Emotions	Emotional	Emotionally mature	Intellectually cold
Happiness	Joyful, playful	Rejoice always	Joyless
Forgiving	Always forgiving	Forgiving attitude	Carry a grudge
Generosity	Generous/selfish	Balanced	“I earned it”
Self-aware	Not self-conscious	Balanced	Overly self-conscious
Self-esteem	Humble	Balanced	Overly proud

A Situational Blending

