

SERVANTHOOD – The Maturity of the Servant

1 Corinthians 13:11 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.**

put away = *kat-arg-eh'-o* = TO CUT IT OFF!

to be (render) entirely idle (useless), literally or figuratively: - **abolish, cease**, cumber, deliver, **destroy, do away, become** (make) **of no** (none, without) **effect**, fail, **loose, bring** (come) **to nought**, put away (down), vanish away, **make void**.

Childish = Thayer Definition:

- 1) **an infant, little child**
- 2) **a minor, not of age**
- 3) metaphorically **childish, untaught, unskilled**

Man = Thayer Definition:

- 1) with reference to sex
 - 1a) of a male
 - 1b) of **a husband**
 - 1c) of a betrothed or future husband
- 2) with reference to age, and **to distinguish an adult man from a boy**

Philippians 3:10-15 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind**, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF A CHILD? WHAT IS THE MIND-SET AND UNDERSTANDING OF A CHILD?

ANSWER: IT'S ALL ABOUT ME!

Children are very self-centered...they are very "me-oriented".

Because they are very ego-centric in their attitudes, thinking that everything revolves around them...then any upset in "their" world, they think they did something wrong, or everyone is looking at them to blame, etc.

Only with maturity comes the understanding that, **I am not the center of the universe...IT IS NOT ALL ABOUT ME!!!**

Paul said in our opening passage of scripture...

When I became a man...

- that is when I reached maturity,
- when I came to a place of productivity and fruitfulness,
- in my mentality, in my emotion,
- In my understandings OF THE LARGER PICTURE...
- **I understand I AM A SERVANT OF THE KINGDOM!!** I AM NOT MY OWN! I AM BOUGHT WITH A PRICE!!

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- **I understand NOTHING CAN HAPPEN TO ME THAT DOES NOT FIRST PASS THROUGH GOD'S HANDS...**

I put away CHILDISH things...

We don't stamp out precious childhood memories! The love and nurturing and care we received as children.

That is NOT what Paul is saying here.

What HE IS SAYING here is we put away [KATARGEO], CUT OFF...CHILDISH thinking, CHILDISH ways, CHILDISH mindsets...

- "ME FIRST" is a CHILDISH MINDSET!
- SELF-PROMOTION is a CHILDISH WAY!
- "WHAT AM I GOING TO GET OUT OF IT?" is CHILDISH THINKING!

When I hold on to things of the past (CHILDHOOD)...ITS HURTS...ITS BRUISES...ITS WOUNDS...

I AM BINDING MYSELF TO MY CHILDHOOD, WITH ALL OF ITS CHILDISH-NESS, all of its SELF-CENTEREDNESS, AND all of its INSECURITIES...

I AM SAYING THE GRACE OF GOD IS NOT ENOUGH!

I'M BIGGER THAN THE GRACE OF GOD

I'M MORE THAN MERCY AND LOVE CAN HANDLE

NOBODY HAS EVER HAD TO ENDURE MORE THAN ME

POOR PITY ME...I AM INDEED A HOPELESS CASE

Or the other extreme...I'M FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU GIVE ME CREDIT FOR...

The truth of it is, BOTH EXTREMES have their roots in the insecurities of CHILDISH THINGS!

PULLLEEEESSSSEEEE!! GROW UP!!

When in reality it is merely a cover to not submit to the Living God, and what He is doing in HIS KINGDOM...

Paul said, PUT...IT...AWAY!!

KATARGEO...

CUT IT OFF...

ABOLISH IT...

DO AWAY WITH IT...

MAKE IT VOID...

NULLIFY THAT THING!

I say again, **I am not the center of the universe...IT IS **NOT** ALL ABOUT ME!!!**

IT **IS** ALL ABOUT Him, His Kingdom, His Plan, His Purpose... IT'S HIS CHURCH!!

And if my heart is truly the heart of a SERVANT, and I can truly pray NOT MY WILL, BUT THY WILL BE DONE...then I will be seeking to manifest His Plan and His Purpose in the earth.

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And if not, just be honest enough to admit...I'm selfish and want my own way more than God's, His sacrifice for me means nothing, my own will and way means more to me.