

Adulting

Ponder: Spiritual maturity

Scripture: "Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature" (1 Cor. 14:20, NKJV).

Have you noticed the trend toward using nouns as verbs? One that I see frequently is "adulting." Someone will think back to the relatively carefree days of childhood, lamenting that "adulting" is difficult. And they're right! Working full-time, paying bills, and keeping the car maintained are but the beginning of an endless list of responsibilities that never crossed our minds as children.

Someone said growing old is inevitable, but growing up is optional. Sadly, there are those who never mature to the point of shouldering adult responsibilities. Still more sadly, this applies in spiritual matters too.

When people first obey the gospel, they are babies in the spiritual sense. That's not an insult! They have been "born again." How could we think they would be anything but babes? We don't expect a newborn infant to hold down a job as a nuclear physicist! Nor should we expect a new convert to understand complicated doctrinal points and respond to trials like a mature disciple.

The time comes, however, to grow up! Perpetual infancy isn't the goal physically or spiritually. Paul expressed his disappointment in the Corinthians: "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able" (1 Cor. 3:1-2). Likewise, the Hebrews writer reproved his readers: "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" (Heb. 5:12-13).

God wants us to be mature Christians (Eph. 4:13), "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (v. 14). Yes, adulting is hard; but we can fulfill His purpose by relying on His power through His word.

Hymn: "More Love To Thee, O Christ"

Prayer: Mighty Father, help us to mature into the likeness of Christ. We pray in His name, Amen.