

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

As long as we are in these houses of clay, even the sons of GOD will be prone to err and the LORD has provided HIS WORD for *“doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* The mercy of GOD is thus demonstrated as HE does not leave HIS sheep without pasture nor does HE abandon them to the wolves. HE does supply them with the necessary food that they, by *“speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.”* All who enter HIS Kingdom do so in and by HIS power and grace and not by any effort or worth of their own. As a child is powerless to provide for himself, so too, are awakened sinners taught their complete need of the mercy of GOD. Even as they mature in the faith they are still, in some things, counseled to be as children. But the predominant message that comes through loud and clear in Paul’s and Peter’s epistles is that it is necessary and desirable for the sons of GOD to leave childhood and grow up into CHRIST as mature men and women. To this end HE has given gifts to the church, *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children”*

Thus Paul gives a contrast to the ways of a child and the ways of a man and says that when he became a man he, *“put away childish things”*. In doing so he gives a mild rebuke to the Corinthians who were in many things acting childishly rather than being the men which are described as being the sons of GOD. Paul was forced to grow up rather quickly, and did not have time for the foolishness of religion, nor the politics thereof which are often such a stumbling block for multitudes who would claim to be the followers of CHRIST.

It is childish when men seek to divide themselves over personality and religious preferences. He rebuked them for seeking distinctions among themselves, for some said, *“I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.”* Those who desire to promote “denominations”, often act childishly. Even those who are proud to be “non-denominational” in reality act in the same childish manner when they promote this division. What distinctions should we have among those who are bought with the blood of CHRIST? Is not CHRIST all in all?

It is childish when men divide themselves from brethren over such issues as food and drink or days, times, and seasons. It is childish to have regard unto days, times, and seasons to the extent that these matters give us reason to promote schism. *“Let no man therefore judge you (nor you him) in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”* Such things shall pass away.

It is childish to “promote” spiritual gifts as an end in themselves. It is extremely childish to imagine that men can gain such “gifts” or operate in the same, through their own effort. A gift is a gift. If the body is not edified by a “spiritual gift”, then no case can be made for its origin being the SPIRIT of GOD. This is why Paul (putting away childish things) forbids “speaking in tongues” in the assembly unless the companion gift of an “interpreter” is also present. It is childish to disregard the ordained order of GOD insofar as the roles of men and women in the church and in life. Those who would leave childhood must be students of the word and be as the noble Bereans who searched the scriptures daily. Pabulum is for babes *“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age.”*

It is childish to wait upon direction, only, from specific individuals; for the LORD has provided an array of “helps” for the children of GOD and each part of the body is to provide that which is lacking in the body. It is childish to consider that there is any higher calling given to the sons of GOD than to “love the brethren”. *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (i.e.; love).”* As HE has loved us so ought we also to love one another”

. *“Thy free grace alone,”*#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**