

When I Was A Child

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1 Cor. 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.

- I. When I was a child ...
 - A. When all my wellbeing depended upon someone else.
 - B. When my time was abundant and my responsibilities very few.
 - C. When happiness was easily obtained and burdens were unknown.
 - D. When I had more energy than time to spend it on.
 - E. When little things were important and big things ... just didn't concern me.
 - F. When all my life was before me and the end was too far away to even consider or think about.
 - G. When all the world was before me and everything was possible, and there were no obstacles in sight.

- II. I spake as a child ...
 - A. Mostly just repeating what I had heard others say.
 - B. With lots of foolishness and vanity.
 - C. Many times saying things of which I had no real understanding of at all.
 - D. Expressing only shallow and mostly selfish thoughts.
 - E. Without any inhibitions about the consequences of my words – no filter.

- III. I understood as a child ...
 - A. With very little knowledge, so therefore with very little understanding.
 - B. A child does not have to understand everything yet – their mind doesn't demand that.
 1. They are curious to know things, but not to understand how it all works.
 - C. Deep understanding is not necessary for a child – his world is very small.
 - D. A child can be happy and satisfied by simply knowing, without understanding.

- IV. I thought as a child ...
 - A. With very little experience thoughts do not have so many places to go.
 - B. More imagination than reality; I could be whatever I wanted, but without the problems.
 - C. Trusting without question – everyone and everything they are told.
 - D. Pursuing little pleasures and finding wonders in every little thing.
 - E. Free from worry and fretting about things they cannot see right now.

- V. But when I became a man ...
 - A. When my childhood was over.
 - B. It does come to an end ...
 - C. This is the natural order of life arranged by God – children grow up.
 - D. There comes a time when it is not acceptable anymore to speak, understand, and think as a child.
 - E. It is no longer cute or funny and it either becomes abnormal, strange behavior, or it proves you are not all there, mentally.

- F. It is sad and also very unbecoming to see one who either refuses, or is unable to grow up and become an adult.
- G. To become a man is more than growing hair on your face or being a certain age.
 1. It is to become responsible for yourself and for others.
 2. It is to start thinking and acting like a man instead of a child.
 3. It is to start understanding things from a man's point of view instead of a child's.

VI. I put away childish things ...

- A. Instead of depending on others to take care of you – you start taking care of yourself.
- B. Stop living in imaginations and dreams and start living in reality with eternity in view.
- C. Stop playing with toys and start working with tools.
- D. Stop pretending to be something you're not, and acting like life is a game, and start trying to accomplish something with your time and energy.
- E. The Bible instructs young MEN to be sober – so a young MAN when he puts away childish things will put away the foolishness and nonsense and begin to think, talk, and act soberly.
- F. This is an important thing that has pretty much disappeared from our society – that is for a young man to put away his childishness and become a man.

The child has no high and manly aim, no cares for great and dignified things, little thought for his future well being either in this life or the life to come. His understanding is feeble, his knowledge is small, his pursuits and pleasures are useless to the world, his years are trifled away in pursuing airy visions, and he is a stranger to elevated and substantial happiness. He speaks as a child, prattling unconnectedly of his little concerns; he understands as a child, superficially and contractedly; he thinks as a child, incorrectly and inconsistently; but when he becomes a man he puts away childish things. His taste relishes nobler objects; his conversation is more dignified; his conduct and pursuits are manly; his views and knowledge are enlarged.

- G. Start seeking understanding and not just knowledge.
- H. Begin to seek to obtain things you can give to others rather than seeking or looking for what someone can give to you.
- I. Realize your responsibility for your family, your wife, your children, your church.
 1. That you will stand before God and give an account for yourself.
 2. How you guided and led them.
 3. How you provided for their welfare or left them to someone else's care. (spiritually, mentally)

VII. All this thought is given here to illustrate to us the difference between what we are experiencing here now and what we will experience in heaven.

[1 Corinthians 13:12](#) For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

- A. All the points given are to be considered in this light, also.
- B. There will be as much difference in our knowledge and understanding between here and there as there is between childhood and manhood here on earth.

Just before his death, Sir Isaac Newton made this remark: "I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself by now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me"—Brewster's Life of Newton, pp. 300, 301. Ed. New York, 1832.