

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Childish Things

April 19, 2015

Issue 209

The Corinthian church of the first century had many problems. They sued each other over petty matters (I Cor. 6), misused the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11), and misapplied their spiritual gifts in worship (I Cor. 12 and 14). In chapter 13 of I Corinthians, Paul focused on the remedy to the Corinthians' many diseases: love. If love is pervasive in the church, the lawsuits go away, the Lord's Supper is administered properly, and the worship service is God-glorifying and orderly.

The church was in its infant stages in the first century, so it was not surprising that those Christians acted immaturely. Over time, the church would

mature as the word of God (the Bible) would be completed and a fuller understanding of church life would be realized. Paul explained this process in I Corinthians 13: "When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things" (v. 11). The Corinthian church was filled with spiritual babies, so problems persisted.

Have you put childish things out of your life? Think about how small children behave. They cry until they get what they want. They're jealous. They're quick-tempered. They crave attention. They

have no concept of the cost of things. They despise work. They are quick with excuses and slow with accountability. They have to be forced to say "thank you", "please", and "I'm sorry".

There are a lot of 40-year-old (and older) babies in the world. Their bodies matured, but they haven't progressed emotionally or spiritually. They behave like children. This adult childishness divides families, infects churches, and destroys communities.

Sometimes the best solution to a problem is two words: Grow up.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Please pick up our new directory from the box on the front pew.
- Kyle Reed was taken to Vanderbilt Friday after a having a seizure.
- Bill Johnson had surgery on Thursday at Vanderbilt.
- VBS is scheduled for June 21-25.
- Our Gospel Meeting will be July 26-29. Tim Agee will be the speaker. It will be a joint meeting with the Coopertown church.

**Happy Haven Contribution Today
Area-Wide Singing Here This Friday, 7:00-9:00 P.M.**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Gupton

Pray: Terry Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Cartwright

Serve: Trent, Billingsley, J. Walker

Pray: JL Shelton

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

James 1:12
“Blessed is the man who
perseveres under trial; for
once he has been approved,
he will receive the crown of
life which the Lord has
promised to those who love
Him.”

*“Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t
walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk
beside me and be my friend.”*

Albert Camus

*“Do I not destroy my enemies when I make
them my friends?”*

Abraham Lincoln

Growing Old

When I was 15, I thought 37 was old. When I am 67 (Lord willing), I’ll think 37 is young. Age is relative that way. What is not relative is the fact that none of us is getting younger. We cannot stop time or the aging process. As time moves on, we often feel a sense of uselessness. We feel like life is designed for 18- to 30-year-olds. Advertisements are geared for younger people. Entertainment is for younger people. All around us we are told that being older is a problem that requires treatment.

Older people also feel ineffective in the church. They pray like the psalmist: “Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength fails” (71:9). They

don’t know what to do or where to fit in. If they’re retired, they have more time for church work, but they don’t know how to use that time.

One of the many beauties of Scripture is that it includes all of us. Have you noticed how many older people in Scripture did great things for the Lord? Moses didn’t lead his people out of Egypt until he was 80 (Ex. 7:7). Caleb was 85 years old when he said that he could still take the hill country if the Lord was with him (Joshua 14:12). John composed Revelation at an advanced age.

If we are to be “faithful until death” (Rev. 2:10), we cannot resign from faith at a certain age. Our most faithful day on earth should be our

last day on earth. So what can the older members of a congregation do to remain active in faith?

- (1) Teach the younger, either in formal classes or by mentoring (Titus 2:1-8).
- (2) Spend time every day calling, emailing, or writing cards to the sick or shut-in. Be champion encouragers (Eph. 4:29; James 1:27).
- (3) If you think of your funeral, spend time working on your eulogy. Don’t write it; live it. Work on your legacy. Decide today how you want to be remembered.

James Hayes
