

## **Why Don't You Grow Up?** (Author Unknown)

One of these days you'll shout, "Why don't you kids grow up and act your age?" And they will.

Or you'll say, "Kids get outside and find something to do, and don't slam the door!" And they won't.

You'll straighten the boy's bedroom neat and tidy -- bumper stickers discarded, bedspread tucked and smooth, toys displayed on the shelves, hangers in the closet with clothes attached, animals caged -- and you'll say out loud, "Now I want it to stay just like this!" And it will.

You'll prepare a perfect dinner with a salad that hasn't been picked to death and cake with no finger traces in the icing, and you'll say, "Now there's a meal fit for company!" And you will eat alone.

You'll say, "I want complete privacy while I'm on the phone. No dancing. No pantomime. No demolition crews. Silence. Do you hear me?" And you will have it.

No more plastic place mats stained with spaghetti. No more spreads to protect sofas from damp bottoms and dusty shoes. No more gates to stumble over in the doorway of the baby's room. No more Hot Wheels or baby dolls under the couch. No more playpens to arrange a room around. No more anxious nights under vaporizer tents. No more cracker crumbs on the sheets. No more wall-to-wall water in the bathroom. No more iron-on patches. No wet, knotted shoelaces, pants with knees out, or rubber bands for pony tails. Imagine a lipstick with a point on it, not having to get a baby-sitter for New Year's Eve, washing clothes only once a week, seeing a steak that isn't ground, shopping with only groceries in the basket. No more P.T.A. meetings. No more car pools. No blaring radios, or Blues Clues three times a day. No more washing hair at 9 o'clock at night. And no more wondering, "Where is the family car?" Imagine having your own roll of scotch tape!

Think about it. No more Christmas presents made out of construction paper and Elmer's glue. No more sloppy oatmeal kisses. No more tooth fairy. No more giggles in the dark. No scraped knees to bandage. No responsibility! Only a voice crying, "Why don't you grow up!" And the silence echoing, "I did!"

### **Not One of My Students**

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40). Someone was talking to a scholar about a young man. He said, "So and so tells me that he was one of your students." The teacher answered devastatingly, "He may have attended my lectures, but he was not one of my students." There is a world of difference between attending lectures and being a student. One of the supreme handicaps of the Lord's church today is that there are many distant followers of Jesus and too few real disciples. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

### **Heredity or Environment?**

"Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD? And Saul said to Samuel, 'But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the

plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal" (1Sam. 15:19-20).

A cartoon in the New Yorker well illustrates how people want to blame others for their faults. It showed a father scowling over a very bad report card while his little boy stood by, asking, "What do you think it is, Dad? Heredity or environment?" Let us accept full responsibility for our own sins, repenting of them and striving to do better.

### **We Really Do Need Each Other**

During a hike in the woods, a troop of Boy Scouts came across an abandoned railroad track. Each, in turn, tried walking the rails, but eventually lost his balance and tumbled off. Suddenly two of the boys, after considerable whispering, bet that they could both walk the entire length of the track without falling off. Challenged to make good their boast, the two boys jumped up on opposite rails, extended their hands to balance each other, and walked the entire section of track with no difficulty whatever.

This, in a nutshell, is an important principle of life. The day of the hermit, the lone wolf, and the self-made man is gone forever. Made in the image of God, we are so constituted that we thrive on partnership, companionship, and fellowship. We do things better, we produce more, and we live happier by helping one another. The person who lends a helping hand discovers that he benefits himself as he helps the other. When we don't support one another, our lives begin to get off-track. We really do need on another.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection" (Col. 3:12-14). "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (Heb. 10:24). (Mike Clayton)

### **Can't Leave It Alone**

The Bible humbles or hardens the human heart. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already" (John 3:18). If we hear it and do not do what it says, we deceive ourselves. It is not like Homer or Shakespeare. We do not go away the same after we have heard the Word of God. We have to do something about its message, for we cannot leave it alone. We may think we have done nothing about it, but it will do something to us. (Vance Havner)

### **If There Is...**

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world. (Chinese proverb)

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- More wagging, less barking.
- Problems would be less if people listened more.
- An ounce of patience is worth a pound of brains.
- Patience does not mean indifference; it is the art of hoping.
- What cannot be moved becomes lighter with patience.

--Only those who have the patience to do simple things well ever acquire the skill to do difficult things easily.

-- It takes two to make up after a quarrel.

--What the world needs is the kind of peace that surpasses all misunderstanding.