

How old are your children

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Has anyone ever told you to act your age? I must admit I've had those words spoken in my direction a time or two. It seems odd to me, all of us want the respect and freedom that adulthood brings, but few want the responsibilities and burdens it entails.

Maybe we've been coddled into believing we can act as adults when we desire and like children when it's convenient. As adults we should know better, and we should be teaching our children better as well. I have never met a parent who did not want things to be better for their children than they themselves experienced. Unfortunately, this motto merely seems to apply to financial status and not to spiritual preparation. If we truly wanted what was best for our children, we would learn to challenge them more...and expect from them what they are capable of accomplishing. A few weeks ago I read something which might shed some light on this thought, it was written by Kent Davis who writes for the Christian Bible Teacher Magazine.

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The Bible class was shocked by the question the new member asked. He wondered if the fathers knew how old their children were.

One of the men angrily answered, "Of course we know how old our own children are!"

The new member replied, "I don't mean to irritate you, but you all seem confused about how old they are."

Another man challenged, "Tell us how we seem confused."

"I will," the new member said softly, "but you won't like the answer. I'll start with Jason, who is not expected to sit still for eight minutes during the invitation Wednesday night because he's too young..."

"He is too young," interrupted his father.

"Perhaps...but you expect him to sit for eight hours in school," continued the new member. "Then there is Brittany, who is old enough to sing with the radio, but isn't expected to sing with the congregation. And what about Tyler? He won't even say "Hello" when an adult greets him after services. He learned the rules of soccer, so why can't he learn the basic rules of etiquette? Is Janie really too young for the Bible? Her Sunday school class reads paraphrased 'Bible stories' rather than the Bible itself, yet Janie is 'old' enough to watch PG movies! Is Jimmy really too young to learn the books of the Bible? He was able to learn the fifty states. How can Ellen be too young to look up scripture references during the sermon, but old enough to write a research paper for the school? How can Tiffany..."

"All right, you can stop now," said Tiffany's father.

There was silence for many minutes, then another father said, "I have been treating my 10 year old as if he were 15 on Saturday night, and as if he were 5 on Sunday morning.

It seem the rest of us haven't done much better. God told us to 'raise up our children in fear and admonition of the Lord' (Eph 6:4) Are we taking God seriously?"

No one answered. Then silence that followed was the silence of prayer."

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I challenge everyone here today to set an example for their children and then encourage them to live by it. Our children may be much older than we've been giving them credit for. Think about it!

In Him, Byron