

Be Not Children In Understanding, But...

I. Introduction:

A. In a context concerning spiritual gifts and in the immediate context near the end thereof (**I Corinthians 12:3-13:13**), we see something we all know. When one grows up childish things are put away (**I Corinthians 13:11**).

1. This applies spiritually as we first are babes in Christ (**I Peter 2:1-2**).
2. Yet, we have to mature (**Hebrews 5:12-6:3**).

B. Yet, there is an innocence that exists in a child that we should not be putting aside (**Matthew 18:3**).

1. The language used in Mark is clear (**Mark 10:13-16**).
2. Being as a child does not mean without instruction (**Proverbs 4:1**).

II. Body: **I Corinthians 14:20**

A. The word translated “understanding” [φρόνη] means:...the mind or cognitive faculties: — understanding” (Strong’s # 5424). It only appears in this passage.

1. Our service to God is greatly tied to our intellect (**Mark 12:28-34**).
2. God wants His followers to understand [to put together, i.e. (mentally) to comprehend] (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).
3. Think about the instruction to act like men (**I Corinthians 16:13**).
4. In general, the word not understood is not fruitful (**Matthew 13:19**).
5. Unfortunately, being physically older does not always mean mental maturity or understanding (**Job 32:9**).

B. It is of great importance to our continued faithfulness that we be no more children (**Ephesians 4:13-14**).

1. Being spiritually immature leaves us behind in learning (**I Corinthians 3:1**).
2. Like the disciples at one point, unable to hear (**Mark 4:33** and **John 16:12**).
3. On the other hand, spiritual mindedness allows the word of God to take full effect (**I Corinthians 2:6-16**).

C. In malice, be as children. Think about the innocence of Jesus (**I Peter 2:21-22**).

1. Maliciousness has to be put behind us (**Ephesians 4:31** and **Titus 3:3**).
2. Carnal mindedness does not lead to heaven (**Romans 8:5-8**).

D. In relation to our subject, let’s consider **Titus 1:15**.

1. In the beginning they were naked and unashamed (**Genesis 2:25**). Then sin affected how they saw things (**Genesis 3:1-11**)?
2. Purity is within our control (**I Timothy 5:22**).

III. Conclusion: **Romans 16:19**