

## 21-Year-Old Woman Lives As 'Adult Baby' With Boyfriend As 'Daddy'

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In case you missed it, it's apparently now a thing for grown men and women to live as "adult babies" — diapers, sippy-cups, coloring books and pacifiers included.



*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.*

**1 Cor. 13:11**

Brethren,  
do not be children in your thinking;  
yet in evil be infants,  
but in your thinking be mature.

1 Cor. 14:20

# A Childlike Faith And Adult Walk

## **Matt 18:3-4 – Become like a child**

- “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

# A Childlike Faith

- Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17
  - Recognize inadequacy
  - Humility, expectancy
  - Trust / total dependence

# Childlike = Childish?

- God wants us to come to Him in childlike humility and dependence
- But He also wants us to grow up



# A Childish Faith?

- *Telos*: the end, termination, or goal
- *Teleios*: having attained the end or purpose: *fully developed, mature*

# A Childish Faith?

- Matt 5:48 - Therefore you are to be perfect [*teleios*], as your heavenly Father is perfect [*teleios*].
  - *God wants us to be mature*
  - *God wants us to be like Him*

# Childish vs Mature

- 1 Cor. 2:1-7

- I came to you with a simple message: Jesus Christ, and Him crucified
- Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature [teleios] (wisdom = the 'depths of God' - v.10)

# Childish vs Mature

- 1 Cor. 3:1-4
  - Infants [*nepios*] – babe, child, simple, unlearned

# INFANTS

MILK

SIMPLE TRUTHS

NOT READY

“FLESHLY”

JEALOUSY/QUARRELS

ACT LIKE MERE MEN

# MATURE

SOLID FOOD

DEEP TRUTHS

READY

“SPIRITUAL”

[*AGAPE*]

[ACT LIKE CHRIST]

# Childish vs Mature

- Maturity is connected with truth
  - Able to grasp & understand (3:2)
  - Able to apply / use (3:3)
    - Affects attitude and behavior

# Childish vs Mature

• Eph. 4:11-19

INFANTS

TOSSED / CARRIED

GULLIBLE

LIVING LIKE UNSAVED

MATURE

GROUNDED

SPEAK TRUTH

LIVING LIKE CHRIST

# Childish vs Mature

- Maturity is connected with knowledge
  - Able to discern truth from error (14)
    - Exhort / encourage one another (15)
- Able to apply / use (16)
  - Affects attitude and behavior (17ff)



# Expositor's Bible Commentary

“Paul contrasts the deception of heresy with the integrity of the gospel. The church cannot allow falsehood to go uncorrected, yet the truth must always be vindicated in the accents of love. ...

# Expositor's Bible Commentary

“‘Speaking the truth’ ... is strictly ‘doing the truth’ and may imply more than verbalization. This fundamental concern for the truth is the secret of maturity in the church.”

# Childish vs Mature

- Heb. 5:14–6:12
  - Dull of hearing – better: *sluggish or lazy in comprehending* (see 6:12)
  - Ought – *indebted: obligated, it is proper or fitting*

# INFANTS

LAZY / SLUGGISH

STUDENTS

*ABC's*

MILK

UNACCUSTOMED

RE-LEARN

# MATURE

DISCIPLINED

TEACHERS

HARD TRUTHS

SOLID FOOD

DISCERNING

PRESS ON

# Childish vs Mature

- Maturity is connected with knowledge
  - Able to discern truth from error (5:14)
  - Able to teach one another (5:12)
  - Able to apply / use (5:14)
  - Able to handle God's Word (5:13)

# Howard Hendricks

“Solid food is for the mature. Who are the mature? Are they the people who go to seminary? Who can whip anyone in a theological duel? Who know the most Bible verses? ...

# Howard Hendricks

“No, the writer says you are mature if you’ve trained yourself through constant use of Scripture to distinguish good from evil. The mark of spiritual maturity is not how much you understand, but how much you use. ...

# Howard Hendricks

“In the spiritual realm, the opposite of ignorance is not knowledge but obedience.”

- *Living by the Book*



# What's the Goal?

- Matt 5:48 - Therefore you are to be perfect [*teleios*], as your heavenly Father is perfect [*teleios*].

HOW?

# Spiritual Maturity

- Live according to God's gifts
  - The Holy Spirit - Rom. 8:12-17
  - Knowledge of Him – 2 Pet. 1:2-11

# Spiritual Maturity

- Long for the Word of God
  - 1 Pet. 2:2 – ...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...
- Desire the Word!

# Spiritual Maturity

- Learn to cut your own steak
  - Can you handle the truth?
    - Study it yourself! – 2 Tim. 2:15
- *Premastication?*
  - What do you consume?

# Do Not Be Led Astray

- You cannot trust everything at the “Christian” bookstore
- You cannot trust everything from a certain author, teacher, preacher
- We must learn to discern the actual content of what is being said

# Do Not Be Led Astray

- Just because someone uses a Bible verse does not mean they used it correctly
- Just because something “works” does not mean it is right (e.g. –Jeremiah 44)
- Whatever is said must line up with what has been revealed in God’s Word

# Spiritual Maturity

- Listen to one another
  - Col. 1:28-29 – admonish and teach
- Col. 3:16 – teach and admonish
  - Admonish = instruct, *counsel, warn, inculcate (instill, beat, pound, repeat, say over and over, indoctrinate)*

# Spiritual Maturity

- Labor in prayer for one another
  - Col. 4:12-13
    - *Deep concern*
    - Maturity & assurance of God's will



# Spiritual Maturity

- Let endurance do its work
  - James 1
    - Be faithful in the tests of life (2-4)
    - Be doers of the Word (22-25)
    - Blessed is the man who perseveres (12)

# Spiritual Maturity

- Acting like God (e.g. – Jesus Christ)
  - Requires knowing God
  - Requires knowing what God is like
  - Requires choosing to do it
  - Requires choosing to do it constantly

# INFANTS

LAZY / SLUGGISH

SPOON-FED

*ABC's*

GULLIBLE

UNACCUSTOMED

RE-LEARNING

# MATURE

DISCIPLINED

SELF-FEEDING

DEEP TRUTHS

SPEAKING TRUTH

DISCERNING

LIVING

*Therefore you are  
to be perfect, as your  
heavenly Father is perfect.*

**Matt. 5:48**

*let us press on to maturity*

**Heb. 6:1**