

"...but when I became a MAN..."

Day Star Publications, P.O. Box 1483, Garden City, Michigan, 48136-1483; daystarpublications@gmail.com

The Word of God gives us a clear understanding of adult maturity, as the apostle Paul describes his own transformation from adolescence, to manhood (Read [1 Corinthians 13:11 KJV](#)-left).

Paul confessed that as a child, he **SPOKE**, he **UNDERSTOOD**, and he **THOUGHT** as a child...in that **ORDER!** All adults know that this *natural order* of behavior fits all children in adolescence. They **SPEAK** before they poses **UNDERSTANDING**, and will make public their **UNDERSTANDING** *before* giving clear **THOUGHT** to it.

This is why God declares that "...**FOOLISHNESS** (*silliness; showing a lack of wisdom, good sense, seriousness or irresponsibility*) is **BOUND** in the **HEART** of a (*that is, every*) child..." (Proverbs 22:15 KJV).

The **HEART** of mankind is the **CENTER** of man that **THINKS**. From there originates his **FEELINGS**, his **WILL**, and his **INTELLECT**. This is **NOT** the muscle that pumps the blood throughout the body, but the **HEAD**.

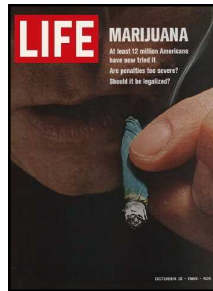
The surest sign of **MATURITY** is when we begin to become serious (*or sober*) minded in our daily living. When we first begin to *actively* prune away our own silliness, we began **THINKING FIRST**, and through wisdom, **INTERPRET** what we have thought, and then, guard our own tongue, *before* we **SPEAK**.

Paul said, "...but when I became a man, I **PUT AWAY** childish things." "Put away" means that Paul rendered those *former things* of his youth entirely *useless*.

"**CHILDISH THINGS**" is found in the scriptures only **ONCE** and it means *infantile; simple-minded; and im-*

"WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I SPAKE AS A CHILD, I UNDERSTOOD AS A CHILD, I THOUGHT AS A CHILD: BUT WHEN I BECAME A MAN, I PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS."

1 Corinthians 13:11 KJV



mature. Paul is **NOT** referring to "toys" here, but to the foolish thoughts and actions of youth.

Both the tobacco and alcohol industry, and drug dealers target the **IMMATURE** because their *stubborn pride* causes them to reject the counsel of the wise, making them vulnerable and easily manipulated.

To truly mature, you must humble yourself before God and say: "Lord, make me to **know** mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may **know** how **frail** I am" (Psalm 39:4).

"... Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15 KJV).