Children Grow Up!

**Text:** Romans 8:16 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,

that we are the children of God:”

**Read:** Ephesians 4:14-15

**Introduction:** The title of today’s message can be read as a statement of fact or it can be read as a command: “Children Grow Up.” Our text tells us that we are the children of God. It is simply a statement of fact that when we are born again the Holy Spirit assures us that we are indeed a child of God. You are also a child of your earthly parents. No matter what your age is today; you are a child of your parents. You are forever their child.

In the 29th verse of Romans 8, Paul tells us that we are to be: “…con-formed to the image of his Son…” When you combine the fact of

verse with the challenge of verse 29 then our title is a command. Ephesians 4:14 begins as a command.

**I. Be no more children!** Paul is telling us to grow up. May I point out that I love my children as children but I do not want them to still have the mentality of an 8 year old when they are 25. I still remember things that my children said when they were not as smart as they are now. My oldest son had a favorite restaurant when he was 5 or 6 years old. He always wanted to eat at King Burger. I still think of that when I pass a Burger King. Several years ago Jared answered a question correctly and when he saw how pleased I was he said: “I’m a genius: am I?” Those things are cute because they are children. They would seem ignorant if they said those same things as an adult.

**II. Be no more tossed to & fro!** Our life should testify that we are settled, stable, and seasoned. Get on course and stay there. When you hear something that bothers you don’t get mad, don’t quit, don’t run away: check it out. In Acts 17 we read about the Berean Christians. It says: “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the script-ures daily, whether those things were so.” I know one man who got mad and quit church because he didn’t like the preacher telling him that he should tithe. If he had read the scripture he would have realized that the preacher wasn’t just trying to get more money put of his billfold and that the preacher was correct.

**III. Be no more windblown by various doctrines!** I am amazed and somewhat surprised when I hear someone dismiss a Biblical truth by saying: “That’s just doctrine.” or “we don’t want a difference in doctrine to cause division.” In Titus 2:1 Paul says: “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:” I know a couple who had no problem going from a Trinitarian church to a Jesus Only church and then back to a Trinitarian church. They saw no problem with this and neither did their pastor. If your doctrine is in error then change to correct doctrine but it is a sign of immaturity to flit easily from one doctrine to another. Adoniram Judson became convinced of the error of infant baptism and began to understand that Biblical baptism fol-lowed an experience of salvation as a result of studying the scripture. He discovered this truth while on his way to the mission field. Once he found this sound doctrine he never faltered even though he lost all his financial support from his denomination as a result.

**IV. Be no more deceived by sneaky/crafty men!** There are those who would mislead you into error by subtle means. They misquote or quote scripture out of context as the basis for their wrong beliefs. How do you think we can avoid being deceived? By knowing the scriptures! How will you and I be able to know the scripture well enough to avoid deception? By reading it more and by reading it in context all the time.

**Conclude:** It all goes back to the Bible. If you and I begin to place a premium on the Bible we will grow up successfully as a believer. It is when we get sucked into this idea that feelings and emotions are more important than the Holy Scriptures that we get off track. If the tracks are laid correctly on a solid surface and the engineer is operating the train correctly then it will never come off of the rails. Trust the infallible Word of God and trust the Divine Engineer and you and I will mature into children that the Father can be proud of.