

1 PETER 1:14-16 GROW DOWN!

¹⁴ *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.* ¹⁵ *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;* ¹⁶ *for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

We spend much of our lives aspiring to become fully adult. Maturity, authority and autonomy are all associated with being an adult. When we were children, our parents, other adults and even our older siblings constantly baited us with the call to grow up. As adults, siren voices through television, the internet and snail mail solicit our investment in various retirement programs promising care-free, independent living – being set up for life.

But God's ways are not our ways. God calls us to "grow down" – to be who he created us to be. As creatures we are dependent on our Creator, not independent Pinocchios of a toy-maker God. We must first know and acknowledge God as the sovereign, almighty and holy One. Second, in recognition of God's nature, we must recognize ourselves as children, dependent on and under the authority of the Father. Only ignorance could cause us to act as if we were our own masters.

Do you know that God is not only sovereign and almighty, but he is also holy? I once read that "holy" could be described as "wholly other." This statement emphasizes that the holy is totally set apart, absolutely different and not even analogous to anything we normally encounter. That is what God is and what we are to aspire to as his children. Like earthly children, we are to seek to imitate our Father. But to do so we need to grow down.

Dear Father, in my need to conform I imitate the popular people around me and seek acceptance by the crowd. I confess that I want to be important and seen as successful and independent. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, that I might acknowledge what you have done for me. Inspire my hands, Lord, to only do those things that are of you. Make me a child, Lord, that I might be holy as you are holy. Amen.