

If someone likes to cook, one of the most interesting magazines around is Cook's Illustrated. It is very well written and scientific in its approach to food preparation without losing the romance of cooking and eating.

I was looking in the May/June issue trying to get a recipe for no-knead bread when I came upon an editorial written by Christopher Kimball. Mr. Kimball recalls his days growing up and living in Vermont which included his being a lay Methodist Minister. He remembered that phrases continued to reappear in his sermons including the famous line from Paul in 1 Corinthians:

*"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways."*

Mr. Kimball notes that "Perhaps Paul, who was a prolific author and endless font of advice for early Christian communities meant something different by 'childish things' in his missive to the Corinthians. Nobody is suggesting that we abandon the notions of personal responsibility, the benefits of long-term thinking, and one's debt to society. (But) a few lucky adults are able to figure out which bits of childhood are worth keeping and which to discard."

Which brings to mind another biblical quotation, this time Luke chapter 18:

*“(Jesus said) let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”*

Whereas Paul extolled the virtues of being an adult Jesus emphasized the virtues of being a child. Now there seems to be a distinction when someone calls someone “childish” which, of course, has a pejorative tone to it and when someone is called “child-like.” Perhaps it is similar to a theme of Genesis of not attempting to “be-a-god” but rather to positively reflect our attributes as being made in the “image of God.”

Scripture calls us to be both an adult and a child-like at the same time. A seeming paradox. But one of the advantages of being human is our ability to choose much in the way of our existence. Perhaps we can aim to be both child-like and adult at the same time.

When I think of the positives of being a child I think of innocence, enthusiasm, wonder, optimism, and excitement; the ability to laugh and have fun, and to be dependent on positive figures in our lives.

Life is good for the person than can have both the positive qualities of responsible adulthood with positive child-like attributes. Perhaps we should focus on minimizing those impediments that prevent us from being both.

I wonder what is going to happen next month when the new issue of Cook’s Illustrated comes and I try to look up ways to cook broccoli.