

It's Time To Grow Up! Feb. 13, 2011 Cor. 3

My Grandson, Marco just turned 2 years old this week. For most of that time, he has been the "little guy" in our family. Now with Matteo around, it's easy to see how Marco has grown in size, in his language skills, and his ability to do stuff. Matteo is good for some milk, a diaper change, and a nap. Humm. ..sounds good to me. Marco, on the other hand likes reading about and playing with Thomas the Train, playing in the snow, and pancakes, pizza, agua, and his fruits and veggies. Just as Marco has grown, God wants us to grow as His children. Paul writes to the church in Corinth that in Chapter 3 that they are still at the Matteo milk stage and it's time to grow up. All these petty things between them; jealousy, ego, and which Pastor they like the best, etc. are signs of an immature faith. Paul tells them that it's time to grow up!

A Pastor asked his congregation to read Mark 17 before next week's sermon. Next week arrived and he asked how many had read the Chapter and almost everyone raised their hand and said yes. He then told them that there was no 17th Chapter in Mark. Their words were empty. Time to grow up!

There is a wonderful story of a third grade boy who suddenly noticed a puddle at his feet and that the front of his pants were wet. This had never happened before and he knew that everyone would make fun of him and think he was a baby. He prayed that God would help him. Looking up he saw his teacher coming towards him as well as a classmate, Susie, who happened to be in his Sunday School class, carrying a fishbowl filled with water. Just before the teacher arrived, Susie tripped and dumped the water in his lap. As the boy was pretending to be angry, he was saying thank you to God at the same time. He became the subject of sympathy while Susie was called a klutz and made fun of by the class. At the end of the day he walked over to Susie and whispered, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?" Susie whispered back, "I wet my pants once, too." For a young girl, Susie showed how much she had grown up as a child of God because she was willing to take the heat for the boy. Her faith had shown through. She understood the old line that "Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car." Her faith in her Lord Who died and rose for her salvation was showing not just at church, but at school, too. No one had to tell her to grow up.

Very much like Susie in the story, our Lord took the heat for us on the cross. He was ridiculed so we could be free. He spilled His blood on us so that we would be forgiven and find new life and hope. He laid it all on the line so that all who trust in Him will have forgiveness and eternal life. He groaned on a cross so we could grow up in faith.

Because God is Good...All The Time, He calls us to grow up! We do that very much like our little guy. We grow up through the work of the Holy Spirit as we read God's Word and share it in Bible Study. We grow up as we worship, take Holy Communion, sing and pray together. We grow up as our faith shines through at school, work, the store, wherever we are. We can pray for love ones and not-so-loved ones. When we can forgive those who have hurt us with God's help, then God won't have to say to us, "GROW UP," for we have shown how much we are growing in the Lord. Amen.. .pastor matthews