

## ***Childhood vs. Childishness***

Childhood is a  
stage of development;  
childishness prevents us  
from taking the next step.

From childhood  
we grow into  
maturity;  
childishness seals us in  
stagnation.

Childhood is a  
promise for the future;  
childishness is an  
impediment of the past.

Childhood knows how  
to receive graciously;  
childishness never gets beyond  
taking selfishly.

Childhood opens us up  
to the other;  
childishness closes us down  
on the self.

Childhood likes  
“us” and “our;”  
childishness prefers  
“me” and “mine.”

Childhood fosters  
wonder and awe;  
childishness makes us  
surly and sore.

When the Gospel, therefore,  
invites us to become  
like little children,  
it is call  
to the inspiration  
of childhood—  
not the insulation  
of childishness.

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January 1, 2006

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