

<div style="margin: 1ex;"> <div> <p align="justify">Some things sound so simple when you first hear them - right?◆ Like puzzles, they're a snap and such a joy to put together . . . NOT!◆ They're of the devil!◆ K.T. is the puzzle picker in our home and for some strange reason (that seems to bring her joy) she picks the hardest puzzles known to man, with a missing piece, no less.◆ But solely to make her happy, we do battle with the devil and dive into the most aggravating pastime known to man.◆ (Before it's done I will be speaking in non-interpretable tongues!)</p> <p align="justify"> "When I was a child I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me" 1Corinthians 13:11 (NIV).◆ Easy, right?◆ The symbolism here is evident.◆ We're children when we follow the world, it's ways, it's wisdom.◆ We put childish ways behind us when we deny our selfish nature, put on the yoke of Jesus, and follow His teachings.◆ (I don't hear any snapping going on!)</p> <p align="justify">Some things sound so simple.◆ Living for Jesus was never meant to be one of those things.◆ It can't be done.◆ At least not until we set the childishness of self aside.◆ Then we can begin to walk and act as adults - filled with God's Spirit.◆ The writer James says that as an adult we'll gain wisdom that is pure.◆ Our demeanor will be peace-loving, considerate and submissive.◆ We'll become full of mercy, doing good works.◆ We'll be known as impartial and sincere folk who just reek of righteousness that is absent of greed or selfish ambition.◆ Do you actually know anyone who fits this bill?◆ To put our childish ways behind us we must give our whole heart, our whole selves over to Jesus.◆ In doing that, something miraculous happens and we become this whole new creature called an adult - Jesus grown!◆ Some things sound so simple, right? This is not one of those things!</p> <p align="justify">Take on the yoke of Christ, be a church of compassion!</p> <p align="justify">Merry Christmas!</p> <p align="justify">-Dale</p> </div> </div>