

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Children of God

On a recent vacation trip, I was seeking to catch up with the happenings of our out-of-town family by leafing through my aunt's and uncle's photo album.

"I must be getting old," I chuckled as I handed back some photographs of their son's wedding. "I can now look at these pictures and think, 'They look so young!'"

I don't suppose my cousin felt that way anymore than I did when I was married...or do now, for that matter. And yet, recently, a grandmotherly type was surprised to learn how many children I had; and (although her comment was certainly meant, and taken, as a compliment) her look told the truth of the feeling that compelled her response: "Why my dear, you look much too young to have children! You're only a child..."

She was, perhaps, in her 60s...but I remember a great-grandmother in her 90s who talked about the "young ones" in their 70s and 80s. It would appear that the older one gets, the more "young people" there are in the world.

In fact, as age increases, the number of people who are that age decreases...approaching the number 1...so that somewhere on earth, there is perhaps, one-who-is-older-than-anyone-else...to whom all the rest of us are like children.

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I guess I shouldn't be surprised that this should remind me of God; after all,

"...God created man in his own image..." [Gen. 1:27]

But, it's comforting to remember that no matter how old any of us becomes, there is always One who is older, for

"I am the Alpha and the Omega" [Rev. 1:8]

said the Lord...the oldest anywhere...and

"[T]he Lord our God is one Lord," [Deut. 6:4]

without contemporaries.

So, perhaps, no matter what our age, we are given the opportunity to understand that by seeking God, even in the daily business of growing older, we can begin to see what it means to be "children of God"...and learn a little more about the Family, in the process.

(August 17, 1980)