

**Subject: Community Action -- Social Action -- Adults of God**

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As a minister I know about the finances of the church as well as having to talk with the congregation about supporting us and our programs, the spiritual practice of tithing, the building of prosperity consciousness, and the multiple emotional issues that folks have about money.

We all have a mental equivalent about money in our minds and in our lives. Your check book and bank statements are the documentation of what is important in your life, what you value, what you want and require more of to feel fulfilled.

Most people come to church hurting. Something in their lives is not working. It is like going to Grandma's house where you will be fed, comforted, encouraged and given wisdom for your life, where your children will be welcomed and you will be seen as the gift that you are.

There are some folks who continue to think of themselves as "children" going to Grandma's house even when they are adults, not in need, but wanting to show off or display their success.

Their expectation is that as "children of God", they will be praised, celebrated, pampered and cared for forever. They do not realize that they must become something more than this.

They must become Adults of God. This is another step in their spiritual development and it is the responsibility of the ministers, practitioners and the church community to assist in this process.

Adults of God recognize that they are the creators of their lives and that they must become what they desire to experience. So, if they would be consistently successful, they must demonstrate a consciousness of sustained awareness, sustained commitments, sustained spiritual practice. In this way, their idea of themselves--their identity--demonstrates confidence and conviction--also known as faith--that there is a Power that governs all experience and that they have a right and the authority to use that power to create greater good for themselves and the life around them.

Unlike the Child of God consciousness, the Adult of God does not seek to be "special" and made better or richer than others as ego fulfillment or excessive pride. The Adult of God recognizes that everyone is equal in God and that their task is to increase this consciousness in themselves and in the world. As a consequence, they seek to support those organizations, individuals and programs that bring people into a greater

experience of this truth. They invest in their own consciousness and create the space—called church--for others to come in, discover, learn, heal, and grow.

So instead of focusing on trying to get the Children of God to become Adults of God or wrestling with the COG about their giving or their support--which is much like nagging a child--I focus on praising the Adults of God, explaining what an Adult of God does, how a AOG uses spiritual principle.

I work to make them desire to be Adults of God because I know that when they are, they will be happy, fulfilled, successful and effective. And they will bring that to their participation in our spiritual community.