

HOW OLD DO YOU HAVE TO BE?

Message: We're all God's children

Scripture: Romans 8:16

How many children do we have here today? (*Have children count.*) OK, now stand up and look at the congregation. How many children do you see in the congregation? None? OK, let's sit back down.

Let me ask you a question: How old do you have to be before you're not a child any more? 15? 17? 19? 21? 50? (*Have children decide on an age.*) So you can tell whether a person is a child or not by how old he is, right?

Well, God has a different way of telling whether someone is a child or not. Let's read Romans, chapter 8, verse 16: "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (NIV)

You see, with God it's not how old you are that determines whether you're a child; it's whether you're led by God's spirit. If you're led by God's spirit, you're a child of God no matter how old you are – even if you're over a hundred years old!

So let's stand up and take a look at the congregation again. Now how many children do you see? Lot's of them! Because they're led by God's spirit, they're children of God.

Let's pray: Father, we thank you that no matter how old we are, we're all your children. Lord, help us to make you proud of every one of us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen