

olds in his ministry, OR of those who are among the obedient saved? So, children who "believe" (ASV) are the same as "faithful" children. Those who want the word to describe 3 year olds prefer to use the word "faithful" instead of "believing", for they want the child to "mind" his father, rather than to have an obedient faith in God. This is unwarranted and dangerous reasoning!

Second, let's look at the words "riot" and "unruly" in the same text of Tit. 1:6. These two words are words that can ONLY describe those sufficiently mature so as to AVOID being riotous and unruly. "Riot" is from *asotia* (NOUN). It is used once more in the N.T., 1 Pet. 4:4, which describes some who run in excess of riot, and speak evil of those who will not participate with them. Then, a form of the word is used in Luke 15:13 to describe the "riotous" living of the young man who left home for the world. Clearly, it is conduct of a more responsible people (though acting irresponsibly) than 3 year olds. Then, the word "unruly" (Gr. *anupotaktos*); Paul uses it again in the SAME chapter to describe "unruly and vain talkers and deceivers....whose mouths must be stopped" through use of the word of God. Does THIS sound like a 3 year old boy?? Hardly! BOTH of these words COULD describe the children of those who serve in the eldership, but certainly do NOT describe 3 year old children.

There is an effort to look at Tit. 1:6 through 1 Tim. 3:4, as if to say both passages are simply saying the elders' children must be "in subjection", and a 3 year old CAN be "in subjection" by obeying his father. They seem to overlook the use of the word "gravity" in the latter passage, *describing his subjection*. "Gravity" is from the word *semnotes*, which is a "necessary characteristic of the life and conduct of Christians, 1 Tim. 2:2" (VINE, p. 279). So, we are speaking of the subjection of one who is mature enough to live the Christian life as a matter of seriousness, which a 3 year old would not be doing. Why not look at 1 Tim. 3:4 through Tit. 1:6, rather than vice versa??

One more point: The REASON for the described conduct of elders' children is that they might "take care of the church of God" (1 Tim. 3:5). HOW in the world would being the father of a 3 year old give one sufficient experience to take care of the house of God? What is going to happen when that 3 year old never obeys the gospel at all, or else goes astray at the age of 17, and truly brings reproach on the elder's family and the church? The elders' children MUST be old enough to have responded sufficiently to their fathers' spiritual guidance and leadership, and give experience to elders to lead the church properly.

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