

Calmet's Dictionary of the Bible, a standard authority, tells us that children were acknowledged members of the Jewish Church. None, we presume, with the history of that Church before them, will have the temerity to deny this fact. In that Church children at an early age, say, three years, were admitted to the Temple worship. See 1 Samuel 1:28; 2 Tim. 3:15. Timothy, from a child, knew the Scriptures, which were able to make him wise unto salvation. We think Paul would not have withheld baptism from Timothy because of childish age, but would have at once acknowledged the grace of God in him and given Timothy the outward sign of that inward grace which God had given the child, which at once would have admitted him into the Church of God. In the Apostolic Church, men, however, and children, who were members of the Christian Church, had special appellations given them signifying such membership. They were termed holy persons. St. Paul confessed that before his conversion, "many of the holy persons he had shut up in prison." See Acts 26:10. He afterwards speaks of such with great respect. "I go to minister in Jerusalem to the holy persons," he says. See Rom. 15:25. In dedicating his letters, he says, "To the holy persons in Ephesus," "To the holy persons in Colosse," "To all the holy persons in Philippi." Thus he gives them an appellation which we are most surely informed was alone given to members of the Church. This appellation was given to children as members, as well as to the adults, in Paul's day, as they were