

Age of Accountability

Age of Accountability

- Age of accountability is not an age at all, but a level of readiness and maturity.
- At what era/ stage/ maturity level is one ready to follow Christ?

Does Accountability Begin at Birth?

- Not an exhaustive study, but consider the following verses:
 - Man is created in the image of God. **Genesis 1:26, 27**
 - Children are called blessings. **Psalm 127:3-5**
 - Sons are not responsible for the bad (or good) choices of their fathers. **Ezekiel 18:20**
 - **Matthew 19:13-15** shows Jesus warmly welcoming children.
- Accountability does not begin at birth.
- **Romans 3:23** teaches we all have sinned.
- When then does it begin?

Requirements of One Who Would Follow

1. **Mark 16:15, 16**

- Must have heard the Gospel and have believed it.
- Involves hearing, comprehension, and acceptance.
- Mental (intellectual) process must be engaged.

2. **Matthew 28:19, 20**

- Must be prepared to be a disciple, follower of Jesus.
- Involves commitment to Jesus and denial of self's will.

3. **Acts 2:38**

- Must repent (a change of heart).
- Implies past sins have occurred, sorrow for sins, and a mind to change.

Helpful Questions

- Parents, you are the best judge of your child's maturity.
 1. Is your child only afraid of going to hell at night? Or, do they express their fears and need during the light of day as well? Someone truly convicted will have concerns beyond the "night fears" that are common to children.
 2. Does your child want to put off getting baptized until some future day--at worship, for instance? If so, then they may not see the urgency of baptism. Someone truly convicted will not want to delay. **Acts 22:16**

Helpful Questions

3. How long have they discussed the subject? Do they bring it up on their own or is it prompted by you or some other event (like someone else being baptized)? We need to be wary of the "bandwagon" effect.
4. What sins do they claim to have committed? Have them write down all the reasons they feel they should be baptized. Keep their reasons for some future date when they may question whether they were baptized for the right reason.

Helpful Questions

5. Ask them, "how will your life be different when you become a Christian?" Do they have an "old man of sin" they needs to be crucified? **Romans 6:6**

Who Should Follow Christ?

- It is for all of sufficient age who understand how lost they are without Jesus and who desire to have their sins taken away.