

# The Age of Accountability

When is a young person ready to obey the gospel and become a Christian? This can be a challenging question to answer. It is tricky because the Bible doesn't give a specific age of accountability. Instead, it varies from person to person.

We need to address three groups of people as we explore what the Bible teaches about this critical topic.

## Young People

- You were born innocent and sinless (Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 19:13-15).
- There comes a time when that innocence goes away.
- The accountable person has the ability reason and think (Isaiah 1:18).
- The accountable person can know right from wrong (Deuteronomy 1:39; Hebrews 5:14). He feels a sense of guilt in his God-given conscious when he does something sinful (2 Corinthians 7:9; Acts 2:37).
- The accountable person can understand the gospel. He understands what the Bible teaches about sin (Romans 3:23; 6:23). He also understands God's part in his salvation (Ephesians 2:8; John 3:16; Romans 5:8-9).
- The accountable person can obey the gospel (Hebrews 11:6; Luke 13:3; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38; Luke 9:28).

## Parents

- We don't want to pressure our children. God wants people to obey the gospel willingly (Acts 2:37).
- We don't want to discourage our children either. This could kill zeal and desire to serve God!
- We want to help them. God has given us the primary responsibility to help them come to know Him (Genesis 18:19; Ephesians 6:4). This requires that we listen, ask questions, and study the word of God with them to determine if they are truly at the age of accountability.

## What can the local church do?

- Pray! Pray for all of the parents and young people who are currently working through this critical matter. Pray that God will bless and help them make wise decisions.
- Encourage! Encourage all the youth who make the decision to give their lives to the Lord.
- Celebrate! Rejoice with the angels even when young sinners decide to have their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus (Luke 15:1-10).

## Conclusion:

Praise God for the young people who have hearts to serve Him!

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