

Maturity for Baptism

- Often times we use the phrase of Age of Accountability
- Ecc 11:9-10; ecc 12:1
 - 3 “r” words
 - Rejoice
 - Remove
 - Remember
 - Childhood is time to remember our creator
 - Our joy and rejoicing of childhood is not exploration of sin (11:9)
 - Rather an opportunity to learn about God and his will (ecc 11:10; 12:1)
 - We need to be asking questions about our accountability to him
 - Young children do not possess the maturity to determine good from evil
 - Deut 1:39, Isaiah 7:15-16
 - Kids were too young to be held accountable for their parents' sins
 - They didn't even understand the issues at hand
 - When have to train them and guide them
 - There will be a time when children reach a level of accountability/maturity must develop and will
 - Ezekiel 18:20
- When Does this begin to happen?
 - Usually seems to happen when questions begin being asked
 - Acts 2:38
 - Philippian Jailer
 - Eunice acts 8
 - Many more examples!!
 - What must we do?
 - Does your child understand repentance?
 - To determine a concept of turning around
 - Understand John 3:4 that sin is lawlessness
 - ‘In his Name’
 - Commitment
 - Consider what God says about it
 - Doesn't have to be mastered
 - Do you understand that you are submitting yourself to Christ
 - There is a sense of authority
 - That Jesus is the Christ
 - Acts 8:30-35
 - Philip is preaching about Jesus
 - We want them to know:
 - Who he is

- His authority

- Why are you doing this?
 - Understand the purpose
 - Not because friends are doing it
 - Not because it is expected
 - Understand that you have to do this for the remission of sins
 - Romans 6, Colossians 2, 2 pet 3
- What then is the age?
 - Does the Bible give guidance?
 - Yes, it does,
 - Often suggested that 12-13 years old is often used since that is when Jesus seems to have been aware at this time.
 - Jesus Grew and developed like other children
 - His childhood Luke 2;40
 - His awareness of his duties to God (Luke 2:42, 48-50)
 - If we see this with Jesus, maybe that is when?
 - Jesus put God's will 1st
 - Luke 2:51
 - A difference in God's grace
 - As a child "grace was upon him: vs 40
 - At 12 he was increasing in favor
 - Jewish customs
 - Barmitzvah etc around 13
 - www.inplainsite.org
 - In O.T. 20-21 years old
 - Those over 20 were accountable isn't he O.T.
 - Valued as adults: Leviticus 27:1-8
 - Pay attention to the expectations of different age groups
 - Faced Judgement: numbers 14:29-31
 - Under the age of 20 were not held accountable for the sins of the group
 - Served in the Military: Numbers 1:3
 - Paid "atonement" money: Exodus 30:14-16
 - Age determines the atonement over 20
 - Once you hit 20
 - You were accountable
 - Expected to hold to the Law
 - Under 20 were held to a different expectation
 - Other favorable evidence
 - Josiah at ag (2 Chon)
 - Drawing some conclusions about Maturity and Age
 - Before 12: Possibly
 - Maturity not age must be evaluated

- After 12: likely
 - Jesus demonstrates the maturity to put God 1st
 - After 20: Certainly
 - God held fully to the standard
- **Tips for Developing Maturity**
 - **Some ideas to consider...**
 - Parents: watch for readiness and pray for wisdom
 - Don't confuse curiosity or childish fears with conviction
 - Remember, becoming a Christian is like Marriage-a serious commitment/covenant
 - **Some questions to ask**
 - Are they old enough to make a thoughtful decision against Christ? For Christ?
 - Are they "pierced to the heart" about their sins?
 - What do they understand about sin and the savior
 - How will your life be different when you become a Christian?
 - **When you get these answers**
 - Farther and obedience should be encourage
 - Faith: Hebrews 11;6
 - Repent: Luke 24:47
 - Confess Acts 8:37-38
 - Calling upon the Lord in Baptism Acts 22:16