When Are They Ready?

Shawn Jeffries · 1 John 3:4

INTRODUCTION

- When is the right time for a young person to give their life to the Lord and become a Christian?
- The Bible doesn't give us a specific age. The Bible doesn't give us a specific number for when a young person is ready to obey the gospel and become a Christian.
- For those of us who are currently raising kids, we need to know how to help them know when they're truly ready to serve God.

1 Young People, You Were Born Innocent

Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 19:13–14

- When you came into this world when you were born, you were born innocent. You were born sinless and guiltless before God.
- Behold, all souls are mine. The soul of the Father, as well as the soul of the Son is mine, the soul whose sins will die.
- That means that every person is accountable for their own actions.
- Let the children alone and do not hinder them from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

2 The Age of Accountability

Isaiah 1:18; Deuteronomy 1:39; Hebrews 5:14

- That language refers to a time in someone's life where they're now accountable. They're now responsible for their actions and their conduct and their decisions.
- Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord.
- Accountable people have the ability to reason. And they know right from wrong.
- But solid food is for the mature who, because of practice, have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

3 Accountable People Are Able to Understand the Gospel

Acts 2:37; Romans 6:23; Acts 22:16

- Accountable people have the ability to reason. And they have the ability to know right from wrong, and they're also able to understand the gospel.
- They can understand Romans chapter 6 and verse 23, where the Bible says the wages of sin is death, spiritual death, eternal separation from God.
- They understand that they must be baptized in order to call the name of the Lord and have their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus, according to Acts 22, verse 16.

4 The Bible Does Not Give a Specific Age

- If there was a specific age when a person is ready to do these things, it would be in the Bible.
- People are different. They reach different levels of different understanding at different times in their lives.
- He said he was nine years old when he knew he was a sinner.
- If you feel that right now in your life you understand these things, what you need to do today is go home and talk to your parents.

5 Parents: Don't Pressure, Don't Discourage, Help Them

Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4

- We don't want to pressure them, and we also don't want to discourage them.
- Train up a child the way that he should go. And when he's older, he won't depart from it.
- The responsibility to help young people know how to serve the Lord and to serve the Lord is given first and foremost to the parents.
- We need to ask questions with our children. And if we get the right answers to those questions, the next thing we got to do is we got to do some teaching.

6 The Local Church Can Pray, Encourage and Celebrate

Luke 15:1–10

- What can a local church be doing for parents who are currently going through this process with their kids?
- Pray every day that God will bless both groups as they work through this delicate matter together.
- What God wants us to do in the local church is leave the judging of hearts to him, and we just encourage.
- Every time a sinner comes to God, heaven rejoices. Heaven celebrates, heaven throws a spiritual party. And we need to as well.

THE CHALLENGE

Maybe there's somebody here this morning who needs to obey the gospel for the first time, who needs to give their lives to Jesus to become a Christian, who needs to have faith in the Lord, repent, and be baptized.

MY NOTES