

Questions for Life

From Sunday, September 27, 2009

Is That in the Bible? Age of Accountability

ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT?

Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

ARE BABIES ACCOUNTABLE?

2 Samuel 12:22 And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell *whether* the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' 23 "But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

ARE CHILDREN ACCOUNTABLE?

Luke 18:15 Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

Isaiah 11:6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatting together; And a little child shall lead them. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain..."

ARE TEENAGERS ACCOUNTABLE?

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Numbers 14:29 "The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. 30 '...you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. 31 'But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in..."

Deuteronomy 1:39 "Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it..."

1. The "age of accountability" is a much – discussed topic. What are some common "ages" suggested and for what reason is that particular age offered?

2. What "new news" has emerged from the Scriptures we discussed?

3. The word "infant" also means unborn or embryo in the original (Greek-brephas) language. What are some of the implications of this information?

4. Science has suggested that the teenage brain is not fully developed until the age of twenty. What are some issues that may need “rethinking” in light of this research?

5. How could you use this message to encourage someone who has experienced the loss of a child? What might that look like?

6. What about our study is the most encouraging thing to you? How will it help in your walk with God?