

Acts 8:36

What hinders some people
from being baptized?

I Afraid Of What Others May Think?

- Mt.10:37
 - What could anyone else do to deserve more loyalty than Jesus?
- Jn.12:42-43
 - It takes courage to be different
 - Jn.9:20-22

II Procrastination?

- Why would someone who knows truth not do it?
- Someone dying of disease does not:
 - DECLINE any reasonable treatment
 - DELAY cure for something frivolous
 - Lk.13:24-25
 - Lk.17:26-29
 - Ja.4:13-14

Acts 24:24-25

‘But exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin’ – Hb.3:13.

- Why would you not do it through the deceitfulness of sin?
- Someone says, “My disease does not.

- DECLINE – reasonable treatment

- DELAY – for something frivolous

- Lk.13:24-25

- Lk.17:26-29

- Ja.4:13-14

Acts 24:24-25

III Do Not Realize What Is At Stake?

- Some do not think their condition is very serious
- “Surely a ‘good kid’ is not lost!”
 - Ac.8:28...
 - Ac.9
 - Ac.10:2

What is sin?

- **Commission:** do something wrong
 - **Thought.** Ga.5:19-21
 - **Word.** Ep.4:29
 - **Deed.** 1 Jn.3:4
- **Omission:** fail to do what is right, Ja.4:17
 - Mt.25:41-46; Lk.16
 - One who does not repent of sins has increased them. 2 Co.12:21
 - Ga.2:21

IV Love Of The World?

- 1 Jn.2:15
 - Some are reluctant to give up things, friends, and activities they enjoy
- Great insult to God to value His creation over His salvation

V Uncertainty About Age of Accountability?

- Issue presents a double danger
 - Danger of over-encouraging
 - The choice must be *theirs*, not ours
 - Danger of discouraging

Many false views

1. There is no age of accountability; babies are sinners from birth [Ezk.18:20]
2. Age 20 (based on Nu.13-14)
3. Age 12 (based on Lk.2)
4. Age 30 (based on Lk.3:23)

5. A child should live the life becoming a Christian to show he can do it
 - Live life before being born or taught?
6. A child has to know everything in NT on the subject
 - Some adults grow in knowledge, then compare it with little knowledge they had when baptized. [Eunuch]
 - Some baptized too young to understand

There is an age of accountability

- Not decided chronologically, but individually
- Children mature at different rates
- Some are taught Scripture all their life (2 Tim.3:15); others are not

2 Sm.12:22-23

Jon.4:11

- Not grownups with directional problems
- Obviously refers to those whose mental capacity renders them unaccountable
 - Ro.7:7-9, Saul . . .
 - sin 'revived'
 - Ro.14:12, Saul lived long enough to become accountable.

‘to revive, regain strength and vigor: Ro.7:9; sin is alive, indeed, and vigorous among men ever since the fall of Adam; yet it is destitute of power...in innocent children ignorant of the law; but when they come to a knowledge of the law, **sin recovers its power in them also**’ – Th.

Obvious to those whose mental capacity renders them unaccountable

– Ro.7:9, Saul . . .

- sin ‘revived’

– Ro.14:12, Saul lived long enough to become accountable.

Principles

1. Child old enough to understand plan of salvation puts soul in jeopardy by waiting
 - Ac.8:39
2. Two questions:
 - Do you feel the weight of sin on your conscience?
 - If so, what hinders you?