

- Preachers and Elders are often asked
 - Is my child old enough to be baptized?
- How old is old enough?
- Should I have them wait until they know more?
- Is there a minimum age for baptism?

Age of Accountability

- Israel – age 20 = able to go to war
Numbers 1:3
- Priests began their service at age 20
- Can we go lower?
- **Samuel – 1 Samuel 3:1** Then the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.

Chronologically

- Jewish tradition – Bar Mitzvah – age 13
- Josiah was 8 – 2 Chronicles 34:1
- Jesus was 12 at temple – Luke 2:41-51

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Practically

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- Do they show a deeper understanding of the conversion process?
- Can they do more than recite the steps of salvation? Can they explain the meaning?

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- How important is it in their mind?

Practically

- Small children are “safe” - do not need salvation, forgiveness or baptism
- Did they disobey, lie, mean to others? BUT – this is not sin – not culpable – not able to process the consequences of their actions

Spiritually

- At some point – it clicks – they know sin, wrong and the consequences of their actions
- What must they do?
 - Develop a personal faith
 - Be willing to repent
 - Make a commitment to Jesus
 - See release from their sins in baptism

Spiritually