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## THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

### FIRST: WHAT DOES THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY MEAN?

- The age of accountability is when a child has reached the age of being mature enough to understand their sin and need for a Savior and is therefore held responsible for their actions before God.

### SECOND: WHAT IF A CHILD DIES BEFORE THEY REACH THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY? WILL THEY STILL GO TO HEAVEN?

- YES!

### THIRD: HOW CAN A CHILD GO TO HEAVEN IF THEY HAVE A SIN NATURE?

[Romans 5:12 \(NLT\)](#) “When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.”

[Romans 5:13–14 \(NLT\)](#) 13 Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. 14 Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did...”

**Verse 14 says...** “Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did...”

#### [Genesis 3:20–24 \(NLT\)](#)

20 Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live. 21 And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

22 Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” 23 So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

#### The Law Did Two Things...

- **First:** It made us aware of the fact that we are sinners, and that we have sinned against God.
- **Second:** It was the first steps in breaking us free from the power of death.

**PRINCIPLE:** God does not count a child's sins against them UNTIL they come to the age of accountability...

**QUESTION = SO WHAT IF A CHILD DIES BEFORE THAT TIME? WILL THEY GO TO HEAVEN?...**

- **ANSWER = YES...**

**QUESTION = HOW CAN THEY GO TO HEAVEN IF THEY HAVE A SIN NATURE?...**

- **ANSWER = By way of the Blood of Jesus that was shed at Calvary to pay the wages of sin!**

**1 John 2:1-2 (NIV84)** “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.**”

**QUESTION: WHAT IS THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY?**

- **ANSWER = Every child is different, but anywhere between 5 and 13 years of age.**

**CHALLENGE:** It's our responsibility to help our children to make a decision for Christ...

- **Proverbs 22:6 (NIV84)** “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”