

ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS

March 30, 2014

You are all in for a treat today as several of our young men will conduct a special service following the fellowship meal. Please plan to stay for the meal and this service. Not only will you be blessed, but it will be a great encouragement to these future leaders.

Separating the Men from the Boys (PART 1)

What is it that turns a boy into a man, or that turns a girl into a woman, for that matter? We speak of the age of accountability, though there is nothing akin to that found in scripture. This is described as the point in a child's development when they know right from wrong. It is not what they know, but the ability to know right from wrong that is the point. Is that a certain age? Many suggest that it is at or about age 12, because that is the age Jesus was when he went to the temple with his parents (Luke 2:41-51).

There are a number of Christians who believe that the moment a child is baptized, a woman can no longer teach him in Bible class. Is there anything in Scripture that requires such a belief? 1 Timothy 2:12 is often cited as the text behind such a belief.

**And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man,
but to be in silence. NKJV**

So, when does a boy become a man? Is there anything in scripture suggesting that it is at the point of baptism? But this seems to be a common belief among many. Please permit a couple of related questions. When does a non-baptized boy become a man? Can a mother teach her non-baptized teenage son about God?

One reason for this belief is that "we do not baptize babies". Certainly not! And small children are safe with Jesus (Matthew 19:13-14; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17). But does that mean a mature child cannot become a Christian? If one is old enough to have a sense of being lost and knowing that faithful obedience to God is the only solution, then regardless of their chronological age, they are old enough to obey God. If not, why not?

Though one might be old enough to father a child, still he is not yet a man. First comes physical development, followed by mental and emotional development. We call that maturity. Until one is mature enough to take on the responsibility of caring for himself, that boy is not yet a man, whether he has been baptized or not.

Remember when Jesus was age 12 and his parents took him to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. Supposing that Jesus was with relatives in the caravan, he was left behind in Jerusalem. And after 3 days, his parents finally found him in the temple. They had a discussion. I want you to please notice what Luke 2:51 says that Jesus did. "And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them..."

Think about that. (to be continued)...

Robert