

ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS **ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS**

Hello dear brethren. This is part 2 of an article that ran in the March 30th issue of the bulletin titled, “**Separating the Men from the Boys**”. As it turned out that was the day my father passed away. Much has happened since that date, and I apologize for not finishing that article before now.

Separating the Men from the Boys (PART 2)

Previously we considered the age a child becomes an adult. When is that age? Certainly it is some time after reaching puberty, and then the state of one’s maturity and emotional development must be deciding factor.

Adulthood comes as one reaches the age of being able to provide for and meet their own needs. A mentally disabled person may not be capable of doing this regardless of his age. And there are cases where children have been forced at a very tender age to provide for themselves. So is that all there is to it? Not quite.

In Numbers 14, God pronounced His judgment on the entire nation of Israel who were 20 years and older (except for Joshua & Caleb and their families). Do you remember the story? Those 20 years and older were going to wander until they dropped dead in the wilderness.

“But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. (Numbers 14:31)

Notice that the Lord referred to those under 20 years as “little ones” (children).

Another reference to this age is seen in the way the Lord took a census of the people. He included the people who were 20 years and older (Exodus 38:26; Numbers 1:1-3, 18).

In John 9 the man who had been born blind was healed by Jesus. His parents were questioned about his being healed from blindness. Their response in verse 21 was, “he is of age; ask him; he shall speak for himself.”

When one reaches adulthood, not only is he capable of assuming responsibility for his own life, he is old enough and mature enough to answer for himself, both to man and to God. This is the true mark of adulthood.

When a boy becomes a man, then it is true that a woman should not teach him in Bible class (1 Timothy 2:12). But just because a child of 13 becomes a Christian, he has not suddenly become a man. If he were a man, then he could legally marry without parental consent. He could go to war for his country. And he could vote in elections.

Children are not men and women. And until that time comes, they will continue to need guidance, direction, correction and encouragement. Then one day they will be of age and can answer for themselves.

Robert