**Sermon Notes**

**“Choose Your Own Adventure Week 4”**

**QUESTION 1: “Are people under age who die going to heaven? Like 21 years of age or 16? Have they had enough life experience to make an informed choice? What about people who have made a choice and drift? Do they have to reject Jesus to be out of the club?”**

Romans 14:12
12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**Age of accountability:** The concept that children are not held accountable by God for their sins until they reach a certain age, and that if a child dies before reaching the “age of accountability,” that child will, by the grace and mercy of God, be granted entrance into heaven.

1. Age 20
2. 12 or 13, “bar mitzvah” (“son of the law”)
3. Or at whatever age someone reaches mental capacity to be held to account:
	1. First, people are accountable for their response to the witness of God in creation (Romans 1:18)
	2. And to the witness of God in the Bible and in the person of Christ (Acts 17:31).

John MacArthur:

*Another interesting thing that occurs numerous times in the Old Testament, is that children (including those who die) are referred to as "innocent." The Hebrew word that is used for "innocent" is used numerous times in the Old Testament to refer to "not being guilty"—literally, "being taken to court and found 'not guilty.'" In fact, the Old Testament refers to the babies that were passed through the fire to Moloch [false god] as the "innocents," so I believe that God, prior to the "age of accountability" treats them as "innocent." It doesn't mean that they are not fallen; it doesn't mean that they are not sinful—it does mean that God mercifully treats them as "innocent" in spite of that, and He has to exercise grace to do that, just as He exercises grace to save those who believe.*

1 John 2:2 says Jesus is “the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

David’s comfort at the death of his son by Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 12:21–23

Genesis 18:25

25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

**QUESTION 2: “Where do children raised under Islam go when killed in the Middle East conflict?”**

**QUESTION 3: “I’ve always struggled with the fact that Jesus said divorce was only permitted on the grounds of infidelity. What about violence in the home?”**

Malachi 2:16 “I hate divorce” says the Lord.

But…Jeremiah 3:6-9!

Key passages: Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:3-9, 1 Corinthians 7:12-16.

*Is divorce only valid in cases of adultery and abandonment?*

Deuteronomy 24:1 (Hillel and Shammai schools); Exodus 21:10-11

Biblical grounds for divorce:

1. “Porneia”
2. Abandonment of unbelieving spouse
3. Neglect (food, clothing, love).

Principle: Divorce is something God hates, but may be sought when a spouse participates in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_activity.