

“WOE TO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF OFFENSES!”

Matthew 18:1-7



BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES IN SPIRITUAL UPBRINGING (1)

1. Teaching the little ones about God, His commandments and ordinances
2. Reminding them of God's love and pointing to His wonders and marvelous economy
3. Handing them the faith and guiding them to the way of salvation



BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES IN SPIRITUAL UPBRINGING (2)

4. Planting them in the church, teaching them about Her order and rites, and guiding them to love other members of the Body of Christ
5. Setting boundaries and the limits for them
6. Training them in the way of life
7. Nourishing them with spiritual love
8. Securing an atmosphere free from offenses



COMMON OFFENSES IN

PARENTING

I know nothing of hatred,
intolerance, racism, sexism,
bigotry, indoctrination,
homophobia, and prejudice.

I don't yet understand things
like love, compassion,
Integrity, tolerance, human
decency and truth.

For the first, most important
formative years of my life,
all I will know
IS WHAT YOU TEACH ME.

Choose well.

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1. WAITING TOO LONG BEFORE STARTING THE PROCESS

- ✘ “But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them'” **Matthew 19:14**
- ✘ The Law of circumcision



2. INDIFFERENCE TO THE FACTS OF FAITH

- ✘ “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed”

Galatians 1:8

- ✘ “If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him”

2 John 1:10



3. ABSENCE OF THE REMEMBRANCE OF GOD AT HOME

- ✘ The pot of Manna and the stones from the Jordan River were kept for an everlasting memorial.
- ✘ The extreme busyness and distraction in today's homes
- ✘ The intellectual faith, void of life
- ✘ God who is confined to the church or limited to an icon on the wall



4. THE DISFIGURED IMAGE OF GOD AND THE CHURCH

- ✗ God who waits for my mistakes to punish me!
- ✗ God who is separated from my world!
- ✗ The church which wants to control my life and know my secrets!
- ✗ God and the church seen as limitations to my freedom!!



5. THE NEGATIVE EXAMPLES AND ABSENCE OF CLEAR BOUNDARIES

- ✗ The exposure of the children to inappropriate shows on TV and the absence of supervision
- ✗ Exchanging obscenities among family members
- ✗ Retaining the causes of stumbling at home!
- ✗ The double life trend!



6. ABSENCE OF A CLEAR AND BIBLICAL IDEA ABOUT WHAT LOVE IS ABOUT

- ✘ Love as defined and shown by God is not about what I may receive, but what I can give: The Sacrificial Love
- ✘ Love is not a reaction of an emotion, but rather a commitment and life governed by the mind and the conscience.
- ✘ True love protects and guards others.

