

Is there no law against child abuse in the Bible?



I have heard this idea put forth: that the Bible does not have any kind of commandment or law against child abuse, specifically sexual abuse. (This statement has been made lately with regard to the fact of clerical child abuse within many church groups.)

Nothing could be farther from the truth! We should always remember that Jesus gave us this as the greatest commandments....

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12: 30-31)

Love of others is Gods' command. Certainly abuse of any kind disobeys this central commandment of the Lord.

But there is something else that Jesus said, that is very very clear and specific about how HE FEELS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE....

"And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them.....But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18: 2,6)

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The words of Jesus here are about the harshest and most severe that one can find anywhere in the Bible! Jesus literally spoke a curse upon anyone who brings harm to a child. Harming a child in any way is something that God takes very very seriously!

God loves all children. And He has terrible judgement on anyone who would cause any child harm. The Bible is very clear about this!



The word millstone is only used in one other place in the Bible, and it is an interesting cross reference. The old testament tells us about an evil and wicked ruler named Abimelech. He caused war, death and destruction everywhere he went. He was a false ruler, in fact his name is interpreted "my father is king".....someone who has taken authority over others through a system of human rulership.



Abimelech died a horrible and shameful death, when a woman cast a millstone on him. This was so dishonorable (to his warped senses) that he had one of his men run him through with a sword.

Biblically a millstone is associated with false rulers who have taken authority over others, and caused harm and destruction to others for their own pleasure and gain.

I think that is a very good description of clerical abuse.

It is quite clear that God does not like it.

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