

## Safeguard Our Children

**BECAUSE**, parents stand as representatives of God for their children;

**BECAUSE**, toleration of abuse has effectively blocked the revelation of the love of God to thousands of children generation after generation:

**BECAUSE**, we want to stop the cycle of denial, facilitate healing and safeguard our children for eternity;

**BECAUSE**, as Christian parents and church community we share responsibility in the development of our children:

**BECAUSE**, four primary maltreatment categories of child abuse are now recognized in reporting laws:

1. Physical abuse - the non-accidental physical injury of a child;
2. Physical neglect - the failure to supply the essentials of life to a child;
3. Sexual abuse - the sexual exploitation of a child;
4. Emotional abuse - the infliction of psychological or emotional injury upon a child;

**BECAUSE**, there are several additional types of child abuse:

1. Moral neglect - occurs when a child is subjected to influences which have or may corrupt the child;
2. Medical neglect - occurs when the child's need for medical care is ignored;
3. Educational neglect - occurs when there is failure to provide the education required by law;
4. Community neglect - occurs when the community fails to provide the support and service necessary to insure the health and welfare of all children;
5. Passive abuse - occurs when the passive abuser never actually lays a hand on the child but paves the way for abuse, sets it up, and allows it to occur by manipulating someone else into acting out feelings;
6. Corporal punishment abuse - occurs when unreasonably severe physical punishment is combined with rage and inflicts injury upon children;

**BECAUSE**, we recognize that when a child has been sexually abused there is rage, hopelessness, helplessness and memory which is imprinted on that child forever;

**WE WILL** provide safe environments in home, church and school for our children.

**WE WILL** no longer allow offenders to continue taking the Lord's name in vain by perpetrating abuse upon children generation after generation.

**WE WILL** assist victims to obtain proper help for healing and restoration.

**WE WILL** make sure that offenders of children's safety are taught to avoid high risk situations and never be placed in an environment alone with children again.

**WE WILL** educate the church community through seminars, workshops, sermons, papers, videos, tapes, brochures, and other resources, in schools, churches, campmeetings, retreats, etc. on how to provide safe environments and healing for victims.

**WE WILL** learn the signals of abuse and never ignore again the silent cry of a child for help.

**WE WILL** recognize that training and education is the best preventative measure to protect children.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_