

Ezekiel 18:30

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.”

Trying to blame your parents for your sins, is like trying to blame someone who parked their car on the street, and telling them that it’s their fault that you hit their car with your car.

So many of us can testify to the fact that we were brought up in bad homes. I personally was brought up in a alcoholic home with both parents being married and divorced three times. A lot of you may have been brought up in bad homes and had a bad life, until you turned to Jesus and gave your life to Him.

Some were brought up in a Christian home, yet turned their backs on God, Jesus and Christianity. But regardless how they were brought up, when they are before the Throne of God, the way they were brought up will not be an acceptable excuse for why they rejected Jesus and lived the way they did.

Everyone is trying to find an excuse for the way they live and the lifestyle they chose to live. Yes parents do have an influence on their kids, I know my dad’s life influenced mine, because I lived like he did, even as a young teenager. I wasn’t an alcoholic like he was, but I did go out and party and did things I don’t need to bring up here. But my dad also gave his life to the Lord a few years before he went to heaven, which also had an affect on me, and that affect helped in bringing me to the Lord, and I got to pray the sinners prayer with my dad.

But even if he and I didn’t give our lives to the Lord, and I died in my sins, it would still not be an excuse for me rejecting Jesus or even living the way I would had. Because others told me about Jesus, I went to church and heard the gospel and the altar calls. Regardless how I was brought up, I still had a choice.

Look at today’s verse again. ***“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.”*** (underlined for emphasis)

Did you catch what God said, “*his ways*” and “*your transgression*” not according to how they were brought up, or the life their parents or siblings or even friends lived. God is telling Israel, and us that we are all responsible for what we do, how we live, how we treat others, how we act and how we talk to others. We are also all responsible with how we treat God and Jesus and the message of salvation.

Look at Paul, who was brought up in a religious home, and was headed straight to hell with his lifestyle.

† **Philippians 3:5-7 (NLT2)** *I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if*

there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.

Yet, Paul knew that he could not defend his self-righteous lifestyle and it would not hold up in court before God, therefore he says that ***“now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.”***

So no matter how you were brought up, whether in a loving Christian home or a abusive hurtful home, the choice is yours to give your life and lifestyle to the living, loving God, who is not looking for excuses, or for you to find someone else to blame. He is simply wanting your repentant heart.

- † **Jeremiah 22:21 (NLT2)** *I warned you when you were prosperous, but you replied, ‘Don’t bother me.’ You have been that way since childhood—you simply will not obey me!*
- † **Zechariah 1:4** *Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.”’ But they did not hear nor heed Me,” says the LORD.*
- † **Joel 2:12** *“Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”*