

“Generational Curses”

- This idea comes from verses like these:
 - **Exodus 20:5; 34:7; Leviticus 20:5; 26:39-40; Numbers 14:18, 33; 1 Samuel 15:2-3; 2 Samuel 21:1, 6; 1 Kings 21:29; Job 21:19; Matthew 23:34-36**
- At first glance, it seems that God judges the sins of the people upon their children of the next generation
 - To set an example to the people – your sin doesn't just affect you! It affects others too!
 - Which we can use as an application
- But the bible specifically says that God does not judge someone for another person's sins (i.e. their parents' sin)
 - **Deuteronomy 24:16 ; 2 Kings 14:5-6; Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:20**
- So why does the bible seem to talk about generational curses being a reality?
 - It is just stating facts about our sinful nature
 - If a child is raised in a family of domestic violence, smoking, drinking, sexual addiction, cussing, etc. What do you think is going to happen?
 - That child will likely fall in to one of those behaviors as they grow older
 - That's the problem with our sin nature! We all are sinners.
 - **Romans 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - Sometimes God also prophesies about what someone will do and how they will be punished
 - Example: Judas Iscariot – The disciple who betrayed Jesus (Matthew 10:4)
 - There is a temptation to look at what he did as a “good thing.”
 - After all – if he didn't betray Jesus, what about the prophecies foretold about Judas? (Psalm 41:9; Zechariah 11:12-13; Psalm 69:25; Psalm 109:8; Acts 1:20)
 - Maybe Jesus wouldn't have died for our sins, etc
 - But you can't look at it this way!
 - Judas was still responsible for his own sin. He didn't know he was going to be the one that was foretold in the scriptures at that time
 - Remember – prophecies are foretold so that after the event happens, we can go back and give glory to God because he “called it” – He knew it was going to happen!
 - But the people are still responsible for their own sins. Judas was not compelled by God in any way to sin; he did it out of his own volition.
 - And on top of that, he could have repented and gone back to Jesus, but he didn't
 - Judas did feel sorry after he betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3-4)
 - But it was worldly sorrow. It wasn't the right kind of sorrow that leads to repentance
 - The right kind of sorrow leads you to get right with God
 - Judas did not do that – his sorrow led him to commit suicide (Matthew 27:5)
 - So how do we “break” a generational curse?
 - It's really simple – are you ready?
 - Come to Jesus!
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17**
 - It says that when you come to Christ, you are a new creature!
 - How are you “new?”
 - You now have the Holy Spirit!
 - **John 7:37-39**
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:8**
 - **2 Timothy 1:14**
 - **2 Corinthians 13:14**
 - **Acts 1:8**
 - The very Spirit of God Himself!
 - If you want to see the power of the Holy Spirit, just read the book of Acts
 - The Holy Spirit was around in the beginning, during the creation of the world
 - **Genesis 1:2** - The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was^[a] on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- If you believe in the Lord Jesus, that same Spirit is dwelling within you!
 - God Himself is dwelling within you!
- You may be wondering – then why do I still get discouraged?
 - Sometimes I don't feel much like a Christian
 - Why do I feel like the Holy Spirit is not with me right now?
 - Well for one – the Holy Spirit is not always about feelings
 - If you have come to the Lord Jesus and believe in Him, He is with you whether you feel it or not
 - But we also get in the flesh and our eyes get fixed on other things so we forget!
- “The old things have passed away...”
 - Your old life style and how you used to view things is gone!
 - You have a new world view!
 - Your old heart of stone is gone!
 - Through Jesus, you now have a heart of flesh
 - **Ezekiel 11:19**
 - A sensitive heart!
 - You can now spiritually perceive the God of the universe!
 - What about the sinful habits you learned from your parents and your peers?
 - This can be a process.
 - We may still sin because of our flesh, but we should no longer have serious habitual sin in our lives
 - We can now choose through God's Spirit to put those habitual sins behind us!
 - The idea is not to fix our eyes on the old anymore!
 - When you come to Christ and are found in Him, those things we are to reckon as “passed away!”
 - “Behold – ALL things have become new!”
 - Christ impacts every area of your life!
 - And we are to submit every area of our life to Him!
 - **Romans 12:1-2**
 - You no longer are a slave to sin, you are free now
 - You can choose to sin or to choose NOT to sin
 - Before, you didn't have a choice – you were a slave to sin
 - **John 8:34-36**
 - You DID have a “generational curse” so to speak
 - You were doomed to sin – just like your parents did and just like THEIR parents did and THEIR parents, etc
 - But when you come to Christ, He sets you free from that bondage
 - Your chains are broken
 - You are no longer a slave! You are the Lord's “freed man”
 - Will you still struggle with the old nature / the flesh?
 - Yes. Your old nature is still there
 - But now instead of being a slave to it, it is an inward struggle
 - The flesh vs. the spirit
 - Even the Apostle Paul struggled with his flesh
 - **Romans 7:18-25**
 - So now it comes down to feeding one rather than the other
 - **Galatians 5:16-25**
 - We need to feed the spirit!
 - If we keep fixing our eyes on the fleshly things...
 - We are going to keep thinking about those things...
 - And keep stumbling in those areas!
 - Fix your eyes on the Lord
 - Lay up your treasures in heaven
 - **Matthew 6:19-21**

- **Colossians 3:1-10**
- Stop doing things that are fleshly and instead spend that time doing something that will encourage you in the Lord!
- Come to Jesus!
 - That is what it means to break a generational curse
 - God isn't OK with us settling in the "old life". He wants to give us abundant life!
 - **John 10:10**
 - Check out these verses:
 - **Ezekiel 11:19**
 - **Ezekiel 18:31**
 - **Ezekiel 36:26**
 - **John 3:3-5**
 - **Isaiah 43:18-19**
 - **Matthew 9:16-17**
 - **Romans 6:4-6**
 - **Ephesians 4:22-24**
 - **Hebrews 8:9-13**
 - Once we are in Jesus, we no longer have to worry about generational sin / curses
 - We are new people in Christ
 - We no longer have to follow in the sins of our parents or brothers or sisters or friends
 - God has completely freed us from that
 - We just have to choose Him
 - We now have the choice!
 - **Romans 12:1-2**
 - Paul says, "I beg you!!! Please!! Offer your bodies to God as living sacrifices. You no longer need to conform to this world! Stop doing it!"
 - If you come to Christ and believe in Him, you no longer have an excuse
 - You can no longer say, "Well I CAN'T just stop doing this because my dad raised me to do this and it's just in my 'blood'"
 - If you come to Jesus, you are in Him now!
 - "Old things have passed away! All things have become new!"
- Can we be "cursed" as a Christian?
 - No!

Family Blessings

- Why in the Old Testament do we see the importance of "family blessings?" What do they mean?
 - For example: The story of Jacob and Esau
 - Jacob tricked his father Isaac in to getting the blessing that normally would go to the firstborn (Esau).
 - Genesis 27
 - When Esau found out about it, he was very disturbed – "bless me! Me too, my father!"(Genesis 27:38)
 - What is so important about these "blessings" that were passed down from generation to generation in the families of Israel?
 - God is the God of blessings! He loves to bless His people!
 - So because we have God that blesses us so much, we naturally also want to bless our friends / family
 - The Apostle Paul also exhorts us to "bless and do not curse" (Romans 12:14)
 - But the original blessings of God are the most important
 - They point to Jesus!
- It can be traced to Adam and Eve, but one of the clearest mentioning of this blessing of God is in the Abrahamic Covenant
 - **Genesis 12:1-3** - Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
 - **Genesis 28:14** - Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
 - What is this "blessing" that God is talking about here?
 - How can God use the nation of Israel to bless ALL of the nations and families of the earth??

- And how do we know for SURE what this “blessing” is?
 - “What is the best commentary on the bible? The ‘Bible’!”
 - God shows us exactly what this means if you read the Bible
 - The ‘New Testament’ unlocks the secrets of the Old Testament
- **Acts 3:25-26** - You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘*And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed*’.^[a]²⁶ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities
 - You can’t get any clearer than that!
 - So what is that blessing?
 - God’s Servant, Jesus
 - Who was sent to bless you! In turning away every one of you from your iniquities
 - As if that wasn’t clear enough, check out these other verses!
 - **Galatians 3:8**
 - **Galatians 3:16**
 - Let’s talk more about the details of this “blessing” – how is Jesus a blessing to us?
 - **Ephesians 1:3**
 - **Revelation 7:9**
 - Truly all the nations have been blessed through Jesus Christ
 - Cleansed from sin and brought near to God – together in heaven!
- Back to “family blessings” in the old testament...
 - Now that we know what that ultimate blessing was that God promised to Abraham, now we know why “family blessings” were such a big deal!
 - This is the promise of the Savior of the world! Jesus Himself!
 - When Isaac his son was born, he raised Isaac with this knowledge
 - And for each generation, God specifically appointed people as the “spiritual leaders” of the nation
 - Isaac was the next leader in line after Abraham
 - **Genesis 17:19** - Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name **Isaac**; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.”
 - Isaac knew this! He saw God working and he knew the blessing had passed to him
 - So after Abraham died and Isaac got old, it was time for Isaac to remind his own son (Jacob) whom God appointed as the next leader and ‘pass on’ that blessing to him
 - Who were Isaac’s sons? Jacob and Esau
 - They were twins
 - Esau was born first – so he normally would receive the “firstborn” rights
 - However, God specifically appointed Jacob (the younger) as the next leader
 - **Genesis 25:23** - And the LORD said to her [Rebekah – Isaac’s wife]: “Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”
 - But there were problems in this family
 - Favoritism!
 - Isaac wanted to bless Esau even though God said that Jacob would be the next in line
 - Jacob and Rebekah end up tricking Isaac to bless Jacob
 - But that wasn’t the best thing to do either – it was fleshly!
 - They didn’t have to! God would have taken care of it
 - God already said that Jacob would receive the blessing
 - So Isaac ended up blessing Jacob even though Isaac’s favored son was Esau
 - Afterwards, Isaac realized that it was God’s will to do so