

It's War - Generational Sin

Who in this room has been to the doctor before? You probably had to fill out some kind of paperwork and in that they asked for your family medical history.....annoying, huh? I have never liked doing that.

But do you know that it's important? Do you know it could tip them off to look into certain things pertaining to your health that they might otherwise ignore? Do you know it could save your life?

See they know that certain health issues tend to be passed on generation to generation. This information can give them insight on what to examine that may not be otherwise noticeable or may be masked by another condition causing a false diagnosis.

It is important for the doctor to know if you have a family history of cancer (and what kind), heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. If these things have been "passed on" to you, they want to find them and treat them ASAP. That's a good thing!

But do you know that you can deal with the same thing in the spiritual realm? These physical generational disorders and diseases can even have spiritual roots. There are lots of studies trying to find the X gene, the one that causes this or that. They know they are passed down but can't isolate why or how....

It is a good thing to sit down and try to write the sins of your family, you need to know the generational sins that you may have inherited. If this is new to you....hear me out....don't tune me out.....this is a REAL way that demonic influence enters your life, generational sin.

Demons gains influence in your life through open doors that they are given. This can happen primarily three different ways.

1. Personal Sin (we talked about last week)
2. Generational Sin (this week)
3. Sins Against You (next week)

There is a reason why I covered "Personal Sin" first.....we have got to understand the weight of sin, that it is our own doing, our own responsibility to repent of, and the impact it can have not only on our lives but also the lives of others.

The first step is dealing with YOU.

Luke 6:42 (HCSB)

42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself don't see the log in your eye? Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck in your brother's eye.

Before we could look at either Generational Sin or Sins Against You, we have to know that our own sin is the root issue. Deal with it.....stop procrastinating, don't be a hypocrite.....amen?

Now that we have that out of the way.....Generational Sin is real. You may be able to look back and find the very sins that plague your life in your parents, grandparents, and so on. It's very common to look at and alcoholic and follow that back many generations and if you wait long enough, you will likely see it continue on as the children grow up.

You see the same thing in poverty situations. Poor family, often uneducated, struggling to make ends meet, kids grow up, uneducated, struggle, their kids grow up.....

Now I understand that these patterns continue because of poor choices.....but the question is: Why do they continue to make these poor choices? It's a spiritual condition....demonic oppression or demonization.....Could also be principalities and powers at work on a larger scale. It's why poor communities often remain poor communities.

There is a kid I know, used to have him in youth years ago. Honestly one of the brightest kids I know. Never seemed to pay attention, but always knew the answers. Acted like he was dumb but was is very intelligent. Poor family, struggles in school, doesn't apply himself, probably will keep the cycle going unless this spiritual condition is healed! It's generational sin.....

It happens every day and it's probably happening in your home whether you are aware of it or not....

So where is the biblical basis for this Generational Sin? I'll tell you that you won't find "generational sin" or "generational curse" if you do a word search on biblegateway.com. But that doesn't mean it's not a real thing.

Just because the actual terms do not appear, does not automatically mean that the concepts which the terms identify do not appear in the Scriptures either. Here are some other examples: Trinity, rapture, I hope you believe in both of those otherwise you are in the wrong place!

Exodus 20:5-6 (NKJV)

5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

This is part of the 10 Commandments, talking about idols. But what I want to focus on is the “visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations”

Sin has consequences and they can pass on generation to generation. We see similar wording in Numbers 14, Deuteronomy 5 and 23, and many other places.

Now I want to be careful with this verse because I believe it’s often used out of context, especially when preaching about generational sin or curses.

WHO will be visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations? GOD! Other verses say God will punish or lay the sins upon the children.

So this word “visit” is important. It means to inspect, review, number or visit in the sense of making a call. The same word is used for taking a census or poll.

What God will be doing is inspecting the children to see if they are continuing in the sins of their fathers. Now at this time it was common for 3-4 generations to live together, so the sins of the father were often reproduced in the children through each generation. If this tells you anything it says that sin is contagious!

The sins DO pass on from generation to generation. Sometimes this can be because of direct influence but often times it is not directly influenced. Many people have absentee mothers or fathers who they didn’t even know or barely knew, yet they find themselves in the same sins of the absentee parent. It’s because the enemy has an open door.

Parents are supposed to protect and shield their children, but even the best parents are not perfect.....thank God that we have a Savior who IS! This is why we have to apply the blood of Jesus to our generational sin and ask for the chains to be broken!

If sin didn’t get passed on, there would be no reason for God to inspect or visit the coming generations. But just like these children in Exodus....if they are exposed to this sin of idolatry they very well might find themselves practicing the same disobedience, with it becoming their own sin....Generational sin can become personal sin.....

Generational sin is real.....

Can you think of negative traits or habits in your life that have been in your family line for generations? WRITE THEM DOWN! Let’s get out in front of them, cut them off before they take root!

Maybe you can see patterns like alcoholism, pornography, verbal abuse, physical abuse, racism, bitterness, fear, insecurity, pride, vanity, witchcraft, depression, the list goes on..... It

doesn't have to stay that way! Whatever bondage you may have, Jesus can bring healing and restoration today!

Some biblical examples of generational sins are:

Adam and Eve sinned and introduced sickness, death and murder into their family, then Cain murdered his brother Abel. We all still deal with Adam's sin!.

Noah's drunkenness led to his son Ham dishonoring him. As the result an entire lineage of people were and are still under a curse in the land of Canaan.

Abraham went against God's will for him and fathered a son in the flesh; this robbed the birthright from the firstborn son, which went on for the next three generations, and in the next five generations the youngest prospered instead of the oldest. We also see Abraham lying to Abimelech and a spirit of lying and deception manifesting in his children. Jacob lied to his father concerning his birthright. His sons in turn lied to him about the disappearance of Joseph.

David, the man after God's own heart, fell into sexual sin with Bathsheba. He committed adultery and then had her husband Uriah murdered to cover up his sexual sin. As a result we see a history of incest, rape, rebellion and womanizing in David's children. You always reap what you sow, it's a spiritual law!

What we see in all of these instances are the sins of the father being passed down. A door was opened and satan entered the house. We have to realize that seeds take time to produce something visible.....

This is why the question was asked:

John 9:1-3 (HCSB)

1 As He was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples questioned Him: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him.

Jesus revealed that it was not because of sin that this man was born blind....in this particular situation, it was so that the power of God could be shown through him! But why was the question even asked? The disciples knew that some sin is generational, can be inherited or passed on and therefore so can the consequences of that sin.....

We know that children are born with tendencies and inclinations.....some of these are because of generational sin.

It is common to hear from homosexuals say “I was born this way”.....you may be right, I believe that may be true.....but that is not because God “made you that way” it’s because you were born into a sinful world and there are generational sins and consequences that have been passed on to you. I for one believe that Jesus can bring freedom to your situation.

You know what is at work here? The Rulers of the darkness of this age...demonic activity that control spiritual blindness in this period of time through agendas and movements.....it’s the lies of the enemy! You may have been “born that way” but don’t mistake that for “God making you that way” God is good, God doesn’t author sin or evil.....the devil is a liar!

This is why the first step in receiving freedom is to have strongholds broken!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (HCSB)

3 For though we live in the body, we do not wage war in an unspiritual way, 4 since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments 5 and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey Christ.

All of these things that tell us things that are contrary to the Word of God are strongholds. Strongholds are birthed in and dwell in deception...lies! So the way to expose the lies is with the truth, which is in the Word of God!

We can be held in bondage due to strongholds in our lives.

John 8:31-36 (HCSB)

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples.32 You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
33 “We are descendants of Abraham,” they answered Him, “and we have never been enslaved to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will become free?’”
34 Jesus responded, “I assure you: Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. 36 Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

I mention strongholds today because these wrong thoughts are also passed down generation to generation. How many of you have things that you believe just because mom, dad, grandma, or grandpa told you that? We must continue in His Word....know the truth and the truth will set you free!

Ephesians 6:13-17 (HCSB)

13 This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. 14 Stand,therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, 15 and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. 16 In every situation take the

shield of faith, and with it you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.

Some of you noticed I haven't said generational curses.....I tried to use generational sins.....Here is why:

Listen carefully.....I believe generational curses (curses caused by sins of the forefathers) are automatically broken at the time a person receives salvation along with "the curse". Christians are not a cursed people....

Galatians 3:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

This curse was the curse pronounced on those who violated the law. It's the curse of sin and death. He took this curse upon Himself and gave us grace.....I don't believe a redeemed person who has been made new in Spirit has to be subject to a sin curse.

But the demonic spirits that were given access to your life before accepting Jesus still need to come out. Their rights need to be revoked, keys taken away. If you are in Christ, the curse is broken, but you still need to drive out the spirits that may have entered in because of that curse.

The precious blood of Jesus not only paid for our sins, but it also paid for our healing and our deliverance. This includes breaking the pattern of generational sin. But, the blood must be applied to break the chains.

In the original Passover the head of the household went out to the flock and selected a spotless unblemished male lamb. The lamb was taken into their home for 4 days. On the evening of the 4th day the family was gathered together and this innocent little lamb was slain. The blood was poured out into a basin. Then the blood had to be applied to the doorposts and lintel, or the curse would strike the first born of the household. Applying the blood broke the curse of death. After the blood was applied, the lamb was roasted and eaten with the unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, who was slain and hung on a tree to take our curses upon Him. His blood was shed for us! But, just like with salvation, we have to do our part. We have to accept the free gift of salvation, that's how we apply the blood to be saved.

But wait....there's more! Christianity was the first infomercial.....except there's no gimmick.....it's real and there's always more

Jesus can bring freedom from generational sin. Just because your father was an alcoholic, it doesn't mean you have to be. Just because you struggled with gossip and bitterness, it doesn't mean you children have to!

CONC - There is healing in confession, there is forgiveness in repentance. Today is the day to be forgiven and healed!

If you have personal sin.....today is the day to deal with it. Would you come, confess, repent, and let someone pray with you?

Maybe you have considered the soul ties we talked about last week, hopefully you made a list of these spiritual ties that pull you away from Jesus, come repent and denounce them today.

Especially If you have had sexual relationships outside the covenant of marriage, would you come, repent of those soul ties, let the Lord make you whole again....

If you have strongholds in your life, these thoughts that you know are lies, you know what the bible says but you can't believe it, you need these wrong thoughts broken, taken captive, would you come down today?

And finally, if you have generational sins that need broken off you life, if you want to be the last one in your family to deal with it, come today, ask the Lord to free your family of generational sins.....

As always it will be up to YOU to come forward for freedom. No one is going to make you, and don't try to make anyone else. The first step is being willing to give up the sin, then confess, repent, be freed, and fill it with the Holy Spirit.

Today is the day of salvation AND of deliverance!