

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

The Generational Curse

- 1—The Curse is Biblical**
- 2—Examples of the Generational Curse (A)**
- 3—Examples of the Generational Curse (B)**
- 4—Examples of the Generational Curse (C)**
- 5—The Curse is Preventable (A)**
- 6—The Curse is Preventable (B)**
- 7—The Curse is Preventable (C)**

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2011

Lesson One

"The Generational Curse is Biblical"

What do these sayings share in common concerning generational relationships?

- "Like father, like son."
- "He is a chip off the old block."
- "The fruit does not fall far from the tree."
- "He comes from good genes."
- "Following in his footsteps"

There is a behavior pattern referred to in some sociological circles called the "fifth generation." It is describing a pattern that is established and passed down to others.

- ◇ Drunks tend to come from families of alcohol abusers.
- ◇ A person with a poor work ethic often comes from a family of poor work ethic.
- ◇ Those with anger issues tend to come from environments of anger.
- ◇ Poor managers of money tend to come from families with debt problems.

The Bible mentions a pattern of a "Generational Curse".

Exod 20:5-6 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing loving kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

At the time of the account, Israel was only fifty days out of Egypt and still longing for the old god-system. According to the text, if they would make the decision not to follow God, there will be consequences placed on the third and fourth generation from those individuals.

Does it seem proper for God to punish a generation of souls for something that they did not do?

The first thing to understand is that the son is not directly paying for the sins of the father.

Jer 31:29-30 "In those days they will not say again, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' 30 "But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge."

Ezek 18:1-4 "Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, 2 "What do

you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel saying, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, but the children's teeth are set on edge'? 3 "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore. 4 "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die."

Ezek 18:20-21 "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity, the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself."

How is it possible to pass a sin unto the next generation?

The key to understanding the generational passing of sin and the consequences is in the indirect route.

- **Exod 34:6-7** *"Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave {the guilty} unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."*

This curse is not something directly passed down, but willingly accepted, for the scripture links the curse to a guilty party.

- **Num 14:18** *"The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear {the guilty,} visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth } generations.*

The generational curse is on everyone who accepts a bad behavior as their own.

- **Galatians 6:7-8** *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. "*

The Expansion of Sin in the Family

In the days of the writing of the Bible, it was common to have three or four generations to live in the same home at the same time. The result was a model of behavior being exhibited everyday to the youngest from the oldest. There is a

generational curse as spelled out in the Bible and the things that we are doing today will encounter our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren if not stopped.



Jonathan Edwards (picture left) was born in 1703 in East Windsor, Connecticut. He attended Yale University at age 13 and later went on to serve as president of the college of New Jersey (now Princeton). When he was just 20 years old he wrote a list of personal resolutions. Among them was “ask myself, at the end of every day... wherein I could possibly, in any respect, have done better.” A simple examination of his family tree is a testament to a generational blessing.

Questions from Lesson One:

- 1) Why is it important to recognize that the Bible warns of Generational Curses?

- 2) Circle the words that should be taken into consideration when discussing a Generational Curse:
 - ◇ Destiny
 - ◇ Practice
 - ◇ Genetics
 - ◇ Consequences
 - ◇ Grudge
 - ◇ Random
 - ◇ Behavior
 - ◇ Warning
 - ◇ Race
 - ◇ Misfortune
 - ◇ Role Models
 - ◇ Karma

- 3) In what way does a generational curse pass down to the younger destination?

- 4) Give some examples of bad behaviors that can be passed down from one generation to another.

Lesson Two

"Generational Curse: Examples" (A)*The Generational Curse of Anger and Violence*

Num 14:18 *The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear {the guilty,} visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth } generations.*

The Line of Cain. Cain was angry with his brother because God appreciated Abel's offering more than his own, for the former recognized dependence to the Jehovah and the latter did not.

- **Hebrews 11:4** *"By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks."*
- **Gen 4:6-7** *"Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will not {your countenance} be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."*

God warned Cain to deal with the anger problem or it would deal with him. Instead of heeding the advice of God, he offered God a replacement sacrifice in the form of his brother Abel.

- **Genesis 4:8** *"Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him."*
- **I Jn 3:12** *"...not as Cain, {who} was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous."*

Cain had an anger issue and it manifested itself in the form of murdering his own brother.

- **Genesis 4:11** *"Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand."*

The punishment that God dealt out was not going to be accepted by Cain.

- **Gen 4: 13-14** *"And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! ¹⁴ "Behold, Thou hast driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden, and I shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will come about that whoever finds me will kill me."*

He wasn't sorry for what he did to God, but remorseful over the consequences.

- **2 Cor 7:10** *"For the sorrow that is according to {the will of} God produces a repentance without regret, {leading} to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

Cain begat Enoch, Enoch begat Irad, Irad begat Mehujael, Mehujael begat Methushael, Methushael begat Lamech. It is in the life of Lamech that we find some deeper details on the anger and violence. Coming from a musical family, Lamech actually bragged about his advanced anger and violent tendencies by writing and singing about it.

- **Gen 4:23-24** *"Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, You wives of Lamech, Give heed to my speech, For I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me; ²⁴ If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."*
- **Matthew 18:21-22** *"Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."*

Within a matter of centuries this generational curse continued.

- **Gen 6:13** *"Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth."*

The generational curse of anger and violence is a prominent curse among the people of God. We need to identify it.

Materialism

In chapter six of Joshua, the people of Israel were victorious in the battle of Jericho and were riding on an all-time high, for the Lord made them victorious. The only thing that the Lord asked was to not take any of the booty for themselves, for doing so would curse the nation.

- **Josh 6:18** *"But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, lest you covet {them} and take some of the things under the ban, so you would make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it."*

If the "seed of greed" were to be implanted it would lead the nation into sin.

- **Joshua 7:1** *"But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the LORD burned against the sons of Israel."*

Achan had a problem with coveting and as a result, people died and Israel was humiliated.

- **Joshua 7:10-12** *"So the LORD said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? ¹¹ "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put {them} among their own things. ¹² "Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn {their} backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst."*
- **Joshua 7:20-21** *"So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."*

He had a problem with coveting the material things of the world rather than the command of the Lord.

- **Joshua 7:24-26** *"Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. ²⁶ And they raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day, and the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the valley of Achor to this day."*

Remember that the items were buried in the floor of the tent; therefore it would not have been a secret to the household. Every living generation of that family were well aware of what Achan did.

- **Ecc 8:11** *"Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil."*

Materialism is a generational curse is prominent among the people of God today in this country and it will come with a price.

- **1 Tim 6:10** *"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang."*

- **Matt 6:33** *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."*

What is the true price of the material goods in our lives? What will be the price that the next generation will pay for the material coveting we chase today? God seeks to bless us through Him and not apart from Him. Look at all the blessing we have sought out apart from God. Look at all the times we have robbed the storehouse of God for our own material needs. Look at all the areas that our worldly passions have stepped in the way of our view of the cross. Our materialism today can and will carry into the future generations unless we change it.

The Lord is seeking to be first in our lives, but we have to allow Him to be in that position.

- **Ps 115:13-14** *"He will bless those who fear the LORD, the small together with the great. ¹⁴ May the LORD give you increase, you and your children."*
- **Ps 112:1-3** *"Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments. ² His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³ Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever."*

There is a prominent generational curse of materialism and it must not be allowed to carry to the next generation.

Questions from Lesson Two:

- 1) Discuss some personal examples of the Generational Curse of anger. Do you see this as part of your family history?
- 2) Explain how anger and violence is passed down using the term "Coping Mechanisms".
- 3) Does a person have to be wealthy to have the Generational Curse of Greed?
- 4) How does greed interfere in a healthy relationship with God? With your family? With your friends?
- 5) How prominent is the Generational Curse of Greed embedded in our culture? What is the evidence of this?

Lesson Three

"Generational Curse: Examples" (B)*The Generational Curse of Lewdness*

Gen 9:20-27 *"And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. ²⁵ So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants He shall be to his brothers." ²⁶ He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ "May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant."*

The Generational Curse of Ham A systematic review of the facts exposes the following:

- 1) Noah was found passed out and naked in the tent by Ham.
- 2) Ham said or did something concerning the nakedness of his father.
- 3) Shem and Japheth showed reverence by covering their father, which suggests that Ham was doing the opposite concerning the same.
- 4) Whatever problem that Ham was suffering was linked to Canaan.

Conclusion: It is likely that Ham was saying and/or doing something irreverent and lewd about what he had seen in the naked body of his father. Canaan, his son, appears to have not fallen too far from the tree.

- **Gen 10:15-18** states that Canaan became the father of Sidon, Heth, Jebusite, Amorite, Girgashite, Hivite, Arkite, Sinite, Arvadite, Zemarite, Hamathite and that his family was spread abroad.

The area that they were taking residence in was defined as the region that includes modern Israel and the surrounding vicinity. This region and people as a whole are commonly referred to in the Bible as the "Amorites" for they were the most prominent.

- ◇ **Deuteronomy 1:27** *"...He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us."*
- ◇ **Joshua 10:5** *"...the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up..."*

- ◇ **Judges 6:10** *"I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me." ' ' "*
- ◇ **1 Samuel 7:14** *"...from Ekron even to Gath; and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. So there was peace between Israel and the Amorites."*

The same region is also referred to as the "land of Ham", for they were collectively the descendents of Ham.

- ◇ **Psalm 105:23** *"Israel also came into Egypt; Thus Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham."*
- ◇ **Psalm 105:27** *"They performed His wondrous acts among them, And miracles in the land of Ham."*
- ◇ **Psalm 106:22** *"Wonders in the land of Ham And awesome things by the Red Sea."*

Abraham was told something of great interest by God concerning the return of his descendents to the Promised Land in *Gen 15:16* **"Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."** Ham set the precedent, Canaan followed, and his descendents carried out the bulk of the culturing of that same curse.

The Spread of the Curse of Lewdness

Gen 18:20-21 *"The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.²¹ "I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."*

The sin of these particular *Amorites* was so wicked that God resolved to wipe them out. When the angels of the Lord arrived in the city to visit Lot, the situation was so grave concerning lasciviousness and lewd behavior that the men of the city, old and young alike actually believed they had the right to rape visitors.

- ◇ **Gen 19:4-5** *"Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;⁵ and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."*
- ◇ **Jude 7 (ESV)** *"...Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire..."*

They were exceedingly wicked, yet there would be another four hundred years

of generationally cursed lewd behavior to fully ripen.

- **Leviticus 20:24** *"Hence I have said to you, "You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples."*

They were warned not to participate in homosexuality, bestiality, necrophilia, orgies, incest and sacrifice of the children to the fertility gods such as Molech. If it were not a problem there would not have been the adamant warnings from God. This is what happens to an entire society when a generational curse of lewdness is repeated over and over again.

Application

- A dirty joke may not seem like a big thing today, but let it run the course and it will snowball to destruction.
- It may be a seemingly innocent peek at pornography today, but your family and friends will be dealing with it for years to come.
- It may be a lustful look at a woman crossing our path, but to the generations to come it will lead our daughters and granddaughters down a path of premarital relationships, unwed pregnancies, abortions, diseases and abuse.
- It may be a filthy-mouth song sung by a rapper named "Enema", the "Bestiality Boys" or Lady GAGa, but when Satan is finished the curse of lewdness will be well on its way.
- It may be a quick glance at porno on the Internet, but the devil will use it as a foothold to hell. There is a generational curse of lewdness.

There is a generational curse of lewdness and it must be dealt with or passed down to our children and those around us.

The Generational Curse of Ignorance

So far we have seen that the generational curse is prominent in our society in the areas of anger, materialism and lewdness. The same curse awaits those who choose a path of ignorance. Hosea mentioned the following:

- **Hosea 4:6** *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."*

God blessed the northern kingdom with great economic times, despite the nation's position of being "willingly ignorant" of the word of God, for they were following a path of sin. God was telling the people of Israel through the prophet Hosea that He was going to clobber them because they have chosen a position of ignorance.

The ignorance in question is not that of having never been taught, for we are all ignorant in that way in many things. The ignorance that brings on the curse is that of a willing decision and neglect. It is referred to in **2 Pet 3:5 (KJV)** *"For this they willingly are ignorant..."*

- **Rom 1:28** *"And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper."*
- **1 Pet 1:14-16** *"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts {which were yours} in your ignorance,¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all {your} behavior;¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

The account of Acts 17 is an example of this type of curse being adopted. At Athens in the first century, they had a god for any and everything under the sun. So much so that Paul addressed it.

- **Acts 17:23** *"For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."*

They were so idolatrous that they had altar to the unknown god just in case they missed one. Paul calls their worship *"in ignorance"* for they had not had the gospel preached to them. Paul shared the word of God with them, confronting their ignorant worship.

- **Acts 17:32-34** *"Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some {began} to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."³³ So Paul went out of their midst.³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them."*

When a nation does not take the position of educating her citizen's in the true word of God, that nation is put under the curse.

- **Ps 127:1** *"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."*
- **Isaiah 5:13** *"Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge..."*

The pursuit of ignorance was so rampant prior to the days of Josiah, the people actually did not have a copy of the Law in which to follow. It was not until they were in the temple restoration process that they found a copy of the Law, resulting in massive changes to the structure and the people. All this was the generational curse of ignorance.

- **1 Kings 22:8-11** *"Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan who read it...¹⁰ Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.¹¹ When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.*
- The forefathers of Josiah neglected the writings of the Lord and it resulted in the loss of direction for the generations to come.

Closing Story: F.P. Paden

Questions from Lesson Three:

- 1) Describe what God meant when He revealed to Abraham in **Gen 15:16** *"Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."*
- 2) What was considered the "land of Ham" and why is it significant to the discussion?
- 3) Discuss the depth of the Generational Curse of Lewdness in our modern culture. What are some of the tools the devil uses to further embed the society in this direction?
- 4) How does a nation perish due to the "lack of knowledge"?
- 5) Give some examples from our modern culture of being "willingly ignorant".

Lesson Four

"Generational Curse: Examples (C)

Prov 23:19-22 *"Listen, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way.
²⁰ Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, {or} with gluttonous eaters of meat;
²¹ For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness
will clothe {a man} with rags. ²² Listen to your father who begot you, and do
not despise your mother when she is old."*

The Generational Curse of Drunkenness, Gluttony and Laziness

Some interesting generational curse statistics of drunkenness are as follows.

- Seventy six million Americans, about 43% of the U.S. adult population, have been exposed to alcoholism in the family.
- Almost one in five adult Americans (18%) lived with an alcoholic while growing up.
- There are an estimated 26.8 million COAs in the United States. Preliminary research suggests that over 11 million are under the age of 18.
- Children of alcoholics are four times more likely than non-COAs to develop alcoholism.
- Children's perceptions of parental drinking quantity and circumstances appear to influence their own drinking frequency.
- Children's alcohol expectancies reflect recognition of alcohol-related norms and a cognizance of parental drinking patterns by a very early age.
- Alcohol expectancies appear to be one of the mechanisms explaining the relationship between paternal alcoholism and heavy drinking among offspring during college.
- Parental alcoholism and other drug dependencies have an impact upon children's early learning about alcohol and other drugs.
- Parental alcoholism influences adolescent substance use through several different pathways including stress, negative affect and decreased parental monitoring. Negative affect and impaired parental monitoring are associated with adolescent's joining in a peer network that supports drug use behavior. After drinking alcohol, sons of alcoholics experience more of the physiological changes associated with pleasurable effects compared with sons of non-alcoholics, although only immediately after drinking.
- Family interaction patterns also may influence the COA's risk for

alcohol abuse. It has been found that families with an alcoholic parent displayed more negative family interaction during problem-solving discussions than in non-alcoholic families.

- Children of alcoholics are more likely than non-COAs to marry into families in which alcoholism is prevalent.
- Separated and divorced men and women were three times as likely as married men and women to say they had been married to an alcoholic or problem drinker.
- Almost two-thirds of separated and divorced women, and almost half of separated or divorced men, under age 46, have been exposed to alcoholism in the family at some time.
- Compared with non-alcoholic families, alcoholic families demonstrate poorer problem-solving abilities, both among the parents and within the family as a whole. These poor communication and problem-solving skills may be mechanisms through which lack of cohesion and increased conflict develop and escalate in alcoholic families.
- Young COAs often show symptoms of depression and anxiety such as crying, bed wetting, not having friends, being afraid to go to school, or having nightmares. Older youth may stay in their rooms for long periods of time and not relate to other children claiming they "have no one to talk to." Teens may show depressive symptoms by being a perfectionist in their endeavors, hoarding, staying by themselves, and being excessively self-conscious. Teenage COAs may begin to develop phobias.

(National Association for Children of Alcoholics)

The Bible is clear in its teaching that drinking is not a sin, but drunkenness. The Bible is also clear that God desires our leadership and Satan wishes for our jumping ship concerning our children.

- **1 Corinthians 6:10** lists drunkards among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. ***"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, NOR DRUNKARDS, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."***

And even though society tells you that drinking is fun, that people who drink are social and attractive, and that a little wine is good for your health, the Bible tells us something very different:

- **Proverbs 20:1** ***"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."***
- **Isaiah 5:11, 22** ***"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine"***

inflammation! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink. "

- **Hosea 4:11** *"Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the understanding."* (NAS)

We have to be careful not to pass the generational curse down to the next generation when it comes to the alcohol. The same thing applies to other drugs as well, including abuse of prescription drugs and cigarettes.

- If healthy family rituals or traditions, such as vacations, mealtimes or holidays, are highly valued and maintained, if the active alcoholic is confronted with his or her problem, if there are consistent significant others in the life of the child or children, and if there is moderate to high religious observance, children can be protected from many of the consequences of parental alcoholism. (National Association for Children of Alcoholics)

Gluttony. There is a reason that drunkenness and gluttony are mentioned together in the Bible, for where you find one; you find a tendency for the other. They are the sins of excess concerning nurturing of the body.

- **Deut 21:20** *"...he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard."*
- Prov 23:21 *"For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty..."*
- Luke 7:34 *"The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!'"*
- In Titus 1:12-13 (ASV), Paul mentions concerning the Cretans, *"One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, idle gluttons."*¹³ *This testimony is true...* He was quoting Epimenides, a secular Greek philosopher from six centuries prior. Epimenides was discussing the proclivity of the Cretans wicked lifestyle which was inclusive to lying, brutishness and gluttonous over indulgence.

Some Facts on our Overeating Epidemic

- 31%, or about 59 million Americans are obese, which is defined as roughly 30 or more pounds over a healthy weight.
- 65%, or about 124 million Americans are either obese or overweight, 10 to 30 pounds over a healthy weight.
- Type 2 diabetes, previously considered an adult disease, has increased dramatically in children and adolescents.
- Overweight adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight or obese adults. This increases to 80% if one or more parent is overweight or obese.

- More people in the US die from the results of alcohol, smoking and obesity every year than all other known causes of death combined.
2003 International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) Research

When raising our kids in an “All you can eat” home, they are going to learn to “Eat all you can.” Gluttony is a curse as much as drunkenness.

There is a generational curse of drunkenness and gluttony.

Laziness

- **2 Thessalonians 3:7-9** *"For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;⁹ not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example."*

Paul had to on many occasions actually had to rebuke some in the Thessalonian congregation for the sin of laziness. From this passage he would continue driving this point home for some were taking advantage of others in the church family.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12** *"For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either."¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread."*

Laziness is a generational curse that is quite evident in our society today. It eventually feeds the poverty of the society.

- **Proverbs 6:6-11** *"Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,⁷ Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler,⁸ Prepares her food in the summer And gathers her provision in the harvest.⁹ How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?¹⁰ "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"—¹¹ Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man."*
- **Proverbs 21:25-26** *"The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, For his hands refuse to work;²⁶ All day long he is craving, While the righteous gives and does not hold back."*

When children observe laziness, a decision will be made as well. Either they will reject their parents and take the path of hard working attributes or more likely continue the same sluggardly path of poverty and dishonesty.

- Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, So he begs during the harvest and has nothing.
- Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can give a discreet answer.
- Proverbs 15:19 The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns, But the path of the upright is a highway.
- Proverbs 19:15 Laziness casts into a deep sleep, And an idle man will suffer hunger.

As mentioned prior concerning the Cretans of Titus 1:12 “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” They generationally passed down the curse of laziness.

Drunkenness, Gluttony and Laziness are three major curses of behavior that have gripped our country and further leads us from God. They must be addressed if found in our lives.

Closing Story: The Family History of Reid

Questions from Lesson Four:

- 1) Does the generational curse of drunkenness run in your family? If so, what is the evidence of this?
- 2) What are some of the things that go through the eyes of a child when observing a drunken parent?
- 3) Define gluttony.
- 4) What are the ramifications of a person that possesses a generational curse of gluttony?
- 5) How does the practice of laziness spread to the next generation and what are the ramifications of it on the family? The society? Spirituality?

Lesson Five

" The Generational Curse is Preventable."(A)

Num 14:18 *"The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear {the guilty,} visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth } generations."*

We must recognize what the problem is in order to cope with it.

- **Psalm 32:5** *"I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide..."*
- **Proverbs 28:13** *"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."*

We must recognize what "TYPE" of curse. The first thing to do in recognizing a family curse is to have a self examination of one's life. Though this is not a complete list of all the possible struggles, it will point us in the right direction in identifying it. Check the behavior and conditions that have plagued and/or are plaguing you in your life today.

Generational Curse Indicators

- abusiveness
- alcoholism
- anger
- argumentative
- complaining
- compulsiveness
- controlling
- covetous
- depression
- dishonesty
- drug addiction
- eating disorders
- gambling
- gluttony
- greed
- homosexuality
- impulsiveness
- ignorance
- insecurity

- irreverence
- lying
- laziness
- materialism
- nightmares
- nervousness
- over-competitive
- parental-disobedience
- panic attacks
- paranoia
- perfectionism
- phobic
- pornography
- pride
- procrastination
- sexual promiscuity
- vengeful
- violence

When a person is under the stresses of life, he or she is forced to come up with different methods of coping with it. Some will choose good coping mechanisms and others will choose poor ones. When we choose the positive solutions to deal with a situation, like prayer, thinking the problem through, using the Bible as the guide and others of the like, the result is a line of blessings to be passed down for the next generation. It is when we make poor decisions in coping with these stresses that we are at risk of being enveloped in generational cursed of behavior.

We must recognize the “DEPTH” of the curse. Not every generational curse that we are in is from the influence of those before us. Many times we could be starting a new curse for our family, one that may not have existed prior to the present time. Ask yourself the following questions concerning the behavior to figure the depth of the curse.

Yes or No

Y/N Were any of the above selected behaviors in the lives of your parents?

Y/N Were any of the above selected behaviors in the lives of your grandparents?

Y/N Were any of the above selected behaviors in the lives of your great grandparents?

Y/N Are there other descendents from your generation struggling with the same issues?

Y/N Did you demonstrate this weakness before age 10?

Y/N Did your closest peers develop the same behavior?

Y/N Are your children exhibiting some of the same characteristics?

If you answered “YES” to three or more of the above questions, there is probably a well-established generational curse working its way through the family.

- **Nehemiah 9:2** *"The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers."*
- **Ps 106:6** *"We have sinned like our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly."*
- **Jer 3:25** *"Let us lie down in our shame, and let our humiliation cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, since our youth even to this day. And we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."*
- **Lam 5:7** *"Our fathers sinned, {and} are no more; it is we who have borne their iniquities."*

More often than not when the curse is three or four generations deep, the number of people contaminated with the learned behavior is much larger. The family support often used to break the curse is not in play and the incentive to change is lowered or non-existent.

If you answered “NO” to two or less of the questions, then the curse that you are experiencing is probably one that you have started. Curses that are starting in your own generation are generally easier to deal with and the damage can be better dealt. There tends to be more support from those around you and one often the behavior is not as deeply connected.

We must recognize the “PARTICIPANTS” of the curse. There cannot be a successful treatment of the generational curse unless there is recognition of all the parties involved, from great-grandfather to great grandchild. Countless Christians struggle their entire lives with the same problem many times because they are allowing the cursed generation to interfere.

- **1 Corinthians 15:33** *"Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”*
- **Proverbs 1:10** *"My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent."*

We must repent. It is not enough to only recognize the curse and those who are involved, but to repent from that very thing. Repent does not mean to change one’s life, for that is the result of repentance. Repent means to make a new decision based on new information. Once that decision is made, action is taken but not the other way around.

- **2 Cor 7:10** *"For the sorrow that is according to {the will of} God produces a repentance without regret, {leading} to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

- ***Neh 1:5-7 "I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, ⁶ let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ "We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses."***

We must not only recognize the curses in our lives, but repent from the generational curse in a generational way, fully appreciating the power of the forgiveness and regeneration of God. If we fail to do the first two steps, the curses will continue to hurt the very ones that we hold dearest in our lives.

Closing Story: Ben Carson, the stupidest kid in the fifth grade

Questions from Lesson Five:

- 1) Why is it important to recognize what generational curses are in your life?
- 2) What generational curses are you presently struggling with?
- 3) What generational curses are not mentioned in the provided list?
- 4) How is a fourth generational curse more powerful than a first generational?
- 5) How does one repent from a generational curse?

Lesson Six

" The Generational Curse is Preventable." (B)

In the last lesson we covered the first two steps of dealing with the generational curses in our lives. We must first recognize it and then repent from it. Now we will press onto the third step, rebuking it.

Rebuke. The Greek term is *epitimaō* (ep-ee-tee-mah'-o) and means to *tax upon, i.e. censure or admonish; by implication, forbid*. Contextually it means to verbally make war against the forces of this world that seek to control the lives of the Christians.

- **Mark 1:25** "And Jesus rebuked (verbally warred with) him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"
- **Matt 8:26** "...Then He arose, and rebuked (verbally warred with) the winds and the sea; and it became perfectly calm."
- **Luke 4:39** "And standing over her, He rebuked (verbally warred with) the fever, and it left her; and she immediately arose and waited on them."
- **Mark 8:31-33** "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.³³ But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

We are in a war with the world concerning the things that are unseen.

- **Eph 6:12** "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
- **2 Cor 10:3-4** "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses."
- **1 Corinthians 16:13** "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

Rebuking does three important things for three types of people. They are as follows.

- 1) It holds the Christians accountable. Rebuking cursed behavior among the believers communicates a powerful message...STAY AWAY FROM EVIL!!!

- **1 Tim 5:20** *"Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also may be fearful {of sinning.}"*
- **Deut 27:15-26**
 - ¹⁵ *'Cursed is the man who makes an idol or a molten image...And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.'*
 - ¹⁶ *'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ¹⁷ *'Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary mark.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ¹⁸ *'Cursed is he who misleads a blind {person} on the road.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ¹⁹ *'Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ²⁰ *'Cursed is he who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's skirt.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ²¹ *'Cursed is he who lies with any animal.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ²² *'Cursed is he who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or of his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ²³ *'Cursed is he who lies with his mother-in-law.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ²⁴ *'Cursed is he who strikes his neighbor in secret.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ²⁵ *'Cursed is he who accepts a bribe to strike down an innocent person.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*
 - ²⁶ *'Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'*

2) It holds aggressors accountable. We have the obligation to speak up when we see destruction coming, issuing a warning for these souls.

- **Ez 33:2-6** *"Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, 'If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, ³ and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows on the trumpet and warns the people, ⁴ then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. ⁵ He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life. ⁶ 'But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his*

iniquity; but his blood I will require from the watchman's hand.'

When we openly rebuke (war with words) against behavior and policies which lead to generational curses, then our hands are washed clean of the curse and there is accountability to the cursed behavior.

3) It holds the undecided accountable. If the poor behavior is rebuked, then the curse's contagious qualities are limited and the people are forced to make a decision based on the truth rather than the lies.

- ***"You are the light of the world..."***, therefore shine into their minds and help stop the undecided to make a reasoned decision.

SPECIAL NOTERebuke with reason

We must have sound reason, not emotion, as the driving force behind the rebuke of the generational curses in our lives. When we are doing this, then the people will be forced to deal with the issue at hand and react in such a way that will stop cursed behavior in many lives.

Cinema Movies

1. The Pro-curse: They are the ones that will defend the wrong path, like the makers of the film.
2. The Neutral: They were the ones that have yet to make up their minds concerning the curse.
3. The Anti-curse: They are the vocal and active people aggressive toward the cursed behavior.

Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, has attributed the fall of the Empire to:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion -- faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.

(Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.)

Questions from Lesson Six

- 1) What does it mean when one “rebukes”?

- 2) If poor behavior is not properly rebuked, what is at risk of occurring?

- 3) Why is it important to give the reasoning for a rebuke ?

- 4) Think of a couple examples of curse behavior that you or your children are exposed to. With that in mind, formulate and share a rebuke of the behavior.

Lesson Seven

" The Generational Curse is Preventable." (C)

We must RECOGNIZE the curse, REPENT of the curse and REBUKE the curse. In this final lesson we will deal with the need to REPLACE the curse.

Replace. If we do not seek to replace it with something spiritually good, then we will end up in a state that is "worse than the first." (Matt 12:45) We must seek to replace the generational curse with the generational blessing.

The Law of the Reaper

- **Gal 6:7-10** *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

1) We reap what we sow.

- **Job 4:8** *"According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble harvest it."*
- **Bad Seed Gal 5:19-21** *"...immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these..."*
- **Good Seed Gal 5:22-23** *"...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*

Bad News: You cannot go back and "unplant" that which has been planted.

- **Hebrews 12:17** *"For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears."*

Good News: We can begin to plant the good crop today.

- **James 3:18** *"And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."*
- **II Ki 10:30** *"And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in executing what is right in My eyes, {and} have done to the*

house of Ahab according to all that {was} in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."

- **Deut 30:19** *"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants."*

2) We reap more than we sow.

- **Matt 13:23** *"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that hears the word, and understands it; which also bears fruit, and brings forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*
- **Hosea 8:7** *"For they sow the wind And they reap the whirlwind."*

If we make God the center of our universe, Jesus the center of our life, the Holy Spirit the center of our heart, the church family the center of our time and the Bible the center of our mind, then the Lord will cause a bumper crop of His first fruits to come into our lives.

3) We reap after we sow

- **James 5:7** *"...Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains."*

We are presently reaping fruits, whether good or bad, from that which has already been planted.

Summary of dealing with the generational curse:

1. Recognize the curse
 2. Repent from the curse
 3. Rebuke the curse
 4. Replace the curse
- Plato said centuries ago in the laws *"So long as the young generation is, and continues to be, well brought up, our ship of state will have a fair voyage; otherwise the consequences are better left unspoken."*
 - "Adults who attended church regularly as a child are nearly three times as likely to be attending a church today as are their peers who avoided the church during childhood." (61% to 22% respectively) -Barna Report 2001
 - "Adults who attended church as a child are nearly 50% more likely to pray to God during a typical week than are those who did not attend church as children." -Barna 2001
 - "Reaching people when they are young." -Barna 2003
Moral foundations are generally in place by the age of nine. A person's response to Jesus is usually determined before one reaches eighteen. Most peoples' spiritual beliefs are irrevocably formed when they are pre-teens. "In essence, what you believe by the time you are thirteen is what you will die believing."

- Barna concludes, “Children are the single most important population group for the church to focus upon. Such a shift in priorities could well bring about the spiritual renaissance that many church leaders have long been praying for.”

Make the choice today to end the generational curse!

- **Josh 24:14-18** *"Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." 16 And the people answered and said, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; 17 for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs in our sight and preserved us through all the way in which we went and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed. 18 "And the LORD drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God."*

Questions from Lesson Seven:

- 1) What are the three truths concerning the Law of the Reaper?
- 2) What can be done concerning the bad seeds that were sown in the past?
- 3) Give some examples of seeds that you would be willing to plant today and what do you expect to occur in the future as a result?
- 4) Did you receive from this course what you were expecting? If so, then what do you predict will be your outcome in the end?

