

Iniquity - Generational sin



334) What is iniquity?

- A. The word most frequently translated "iniquity" in the OT means "perversity; therefore, (moral) evil."
 - 1. It comes from a root word that means "to be bent or twisted; to distort."
 - 2. When this distortion pertains to the law, it means "to sin, to commit iniquity."
 - 3. It also means the evil deed as well as the punishment for that deed.
- B. The word most frequently translated "iniquity" in the NT means "wickedness; lawless".
- C. Iniquity is a sinful twist in our character that bears the fruit of perverse or wicked behavior.

335) What is generational sin?

- A. When parents disregard God and continue to sin, their twisted, sinful character is passed on to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- B. Their descendants will follow in the footsteps of their forefathers.
 - 1. The children are influenced by their parent's sin by becoming just like them, coming under the same condemnation of sin.

"You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,"

EXO 20:5 NIV

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"

EXO 20:5 KJV

336) Is only sin and iniquity passed down through the generations?

- A. No. Many aspects of a parent's nature and character are passed down through the generations.

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- B. Physical features such as body type, height, hair and eye color, physical quirks and mannerisms can all be passed down.
- C. Elements of our personality, disposition, and temperament come from our parents.
- D. Susceptibility or resistance to certain diseases such as cancer, heart disease, sickle-cell anemia, diabetes, certain types of mental illness, etc., can be passed to our offspring.
- E. Love for God and God's blessing on our life can be passed down through the generations.

337) What is generational blessing?

- A. Generational blessing is when God bestows His blessing and favor on a family because of the obedience and faith of the parents.

"You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

EXO 20:5-6 NIV

"I will surely bless you (Abraham) and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, [18] and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

GEN 22:17-18 NIV

"When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your (David's) offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. [14] I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. [15] But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. [16] Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

2SAM 7:12-16 NIV

338) What is the method or mechanism of transfer for generational traits?

- A. They can be taught.
 - 1. A parent with a gentle temperament can teach a rowdy child to be kind and gentle. A child who watches his mother worry over everything can learn to be a worrier.
- B. They can be inherited through the genes.
 - 1. It is well known that our physical characteristics are written in our genetic code. It is also noted that children inherit personality traits from one or both parents.
- C. They can come through spirit sources.
 - 1. A man can make a place for God in his heart and home. The presence of God will bless that home and even those who come to visit.

2. Likewise, a man who allows an evil spirit of lust or anger to operate in his life will bring that spirit into his home. That evil spirit will influence everyone who lives in or visits that home.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."
PRO 22:6 NIV

"Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. [12] As you enter the home, give it your greeting. [13] If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. [14] If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town."

MATT 10:11-14 NIV

"One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham. [10] because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor."
HEB 7:9-10 NIV

339) How is generational sin passed on to succeeding generations?

A. It can be taught.

1. Children watch their parent's every move. If they hear their parents when they lie to a friend on the phone, shoplift from the grocery store, use foul language, or engage in any other sinful behavior, they assume it is "OK" because mommy and daddy do it.
2. When they grow up, they will act just like their parents who taught them to sin.

"The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger."

JER 7:18 NIV

B. It can come through the genes.

1. It has been medically proven that some people have a gene that makes them susceptible to alcoholism. If they are exposed to alcohol, they are more likely to become alcoholic.

C. It commonly comes through spirit activity.

1. When men choose to serve sin, they open the door to demonic influence in their life. Because the demons have permission to operate in the parent's lives, they have permission to operate in their children's lives, bringing a curse upon that person's lineage.

"If the people of the community close their eyes when that man gives one of his children to Molech and they fail to put him to death, [5] I will set my face against that man and his family and will cut off from their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molech."

LEV 20:4-5 NIV

"The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

NUM 14:18 NIV

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"Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. [25] Joshua said, 'Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today.' Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them."

JOS 7:24-25 NIV

2. When men open the door to demonic influence in their lives, the enemy exploits the man and his family and places them in danger of God's judgement of sin..

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2] in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

EPH 2:1-3 NIV

340) Is there any other indication that sin can be transmitted from father to son?

- A. Yes. We are all born in sin because of our father Adam's failure to obey God. The concept called original sin is parallel to generational sin. Generational sin affects 3-4 generations, while Adam's sin has affected all generations for 6000 years.

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned -"

ROM 5:12 NIV

341) What are the practical effects of generational sin?

- A. The sons and daughters fall into the same sins their parents struggled with.
 1. The iniquity of our forefathers opens a place in our families for Satan to operate.
 2. The twist in the character of our forefathers opens a door to the enemy and the sons become easy prey to the sin of the fathers.
 3. The sons can come to see this distorted sinful behavior as "normal."

342) How can I tell if my life is being affected by generational sin?

- A. If the items in the following check list have been present in your family for multiple generations, you are struggling against the effects of generational sin.
 1. Cults, idolatry, or false religion.
 2. Rebellion against authority.
 3. Resisting God through rebellion or unbelief.
 4. Witchcraft, occult, casting of spells, wearing "good luck" charms for protection.
 5. Alcoholism, drug use, addition to nicotine, anorexia, bulimia.
 6. Anger and uncontrollable rage.
 7. Bitterness or a mean streak.
 8. Pride and arrogance.
 9. Physical, mental, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse.

10. A life style of exaggeration and lying.
11. Depression, mental or emotional breakdowns.
12. Cancer, diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, stroke, repeated health problems (such as miscarriages) with no direct medical cause.
13. Divorce, generation to generation.
14. Adultery, immorality, repeated affairs, prostitution.
15. Multiple sex partners, teen pregnancies and children out of wedlock.
16. Abortions, murder, suicide.
17. Homosexuality, lesbianism.
18. Laziness.
19. The inability to get and keep a job.
20. Gambling, trying to get something for nothing.
21. Financial insufficiency, poverty reigning in the family.
22. Prejudice against others based on racial or religious grounds.
23. Worry and fretting.
24. Workaholic, perfectionism.

343) What harmful attitude can be developed if we surrender to generational sin?

- A. We can become fatalistic. Even though we see the problem, we can view the future as being inevitable, unchangeable.
- B. We say, "That's the way my mother was and that's the way I'll always be."
- C. We say, "My grandfather and my father both died of cancer, so I guess that's what I have to look forward to."

344) Do we have to remain trapped by generational sin?

- A. No! God has made provisions through the New Covenant to free us from the iniquities of our forefathers.
- B. It can stop with us. We need not pass iniquity on to our family. We can leave a heritage of righteousness and pass on the blessing of God to our family.

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."
ISA 53:5 NIV

"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin."
DEU 24:16 NIV

"In those days people will no longer say, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' [30] Instead, everyone will die for his own sin; whoever eats sour grapes - his own teeth will be set on edge. [31] "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. [32] It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. [33] "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds

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and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

JER 31:29-33 NIV

"The word of the LORD came to me: [2] "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: 'The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? [3] "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. [4] For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son -both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die."

EZE 18:1-4 NIV

345) How can we break the cycle of sin in our family?

- A. Repentance untwists iniquity. Once iniquity has been dealt with in your life, it no longer will operate in your household.
1. You now teach your children righteousness.
 2. Using spiritual weapons, you resist any hereditary influences in your temperament or any susceptibility to a disease.
 3. You allow only the Holy Spirit to operate in your home to bring blessing and eliminate the curse on your family.

"Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits - [3] who forgives all your sins (iniquities) and heals all your diseases, [4] who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, [5] who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

PSA 103:2-5 NIV

"Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall."

EZE 18:30 NIV

"Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. [19] You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."

MIC 7:18-19 NIV

"He said, 'If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.'"

EXO 15:26 NIV

"And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. [14] For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy."

1COR 7:13-14 NIV

Iniquity - Generational Sin

- a. **The word "sanctified" means "set apart." The saved parent's faith is honored by God and He blesses the household because of the believer's presence.**

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 23

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) Define generational sin.

- 2) List three methods of transferring generational sin.

- 3) Are we trapped by the generational sin of our ancestors? Explain.

- 4) Explain how to break the cycle of generational sin.
