



### The Sins of the Father — May 31, 2009

**Life Truth:** Experience testifies that \_\_\_\_\_ behavior on the part of one generation often results in \_\_\_\_\_ for the next generation.

- They often live in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- They often experience the \_\_\_\_\_.
- They often \_\_\_\_\_ the same transgression...
  - o ...many times to a \_\_\_\_\_ degree. (**Hosea 8:7**)

**Key Question #1:** How do generational patterns of sin come to exist?

- Be mindful of the \_\_\_\_\_. (**Ephesians 6:4**)
- Be alert to the \_\_\_\_\_. (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- Avoid the extreme: Generational patterns of sin are not born out of \_\_\_\_\_.

“...The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the **guilty, visiting** the **iniquity** of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation”. **Exodus 34:6-7**

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- God does not \_\_\_\_\_ one generation for the sins of the next. (**Ezekiel 18:20**)
- God does not cause the next generation to \_\_\_\_\_. (**James 1:13**)
- Scripture does seem to warn us that if we stubbornly continue to \_\_\_\_\_ down to a stronghold in our life, then God will take an account as that stronghold \_\_\_\_\_ in the lives of our children and grandchildren and beyond.

**Key Question #2:** How do we break free from generational patterns of sin?

- Reflect on \_\_\_\_\_: It is not instantaneous.
- Consider God's \_\_\_\_\_: He is infinitely valuable to be pursued.
- Avoid the extreme: Generational patterns of sin are not a hopeless \_\_\_\_\_.

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. **So you also are complete through your union with Christ**, who is the head over every ruler and authority. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins...

...He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. **In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities.** He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. **Colossians 2 (NLT)**

**Practical application for those dealing with a generational pattern of sin:**

- Ask the question: \_\_\_\_\_?
- Face; Confess; Choose; (**Ezekiel 18:14-17**)
- Allow someone to walk this out with you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the next generation.