

Women Counseling Women:
Biblical Answers to Life's Difficult Problems

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Week 12

“Breaking the Chain of Generational Sin”

Generational sins are unbiblical patterns, behaviors, or responses that are habitual, familiar, and destructive. They are learned from one generation by the next. (Examples: alcohol abuse, overeating, verbal/physical abuse, anger, worry, stealing, lying, manipulating, etc.) [NOT a “family curse” that predetermines how we respond to life.]

No family is immune from sin because every family is comprised of sinners. Every family has unique sin patterns.

You do not have to sin in the same way that your parents (or grandparents) did. We are responsible - not our parents or anyone else - for what we choose to do. We can choose to make excuses, shift the blame, and try to cover up, or we can choose to fight our sin honestly and openly with God's help. Each of us needs to take personal responsibility for what we do in life.

When we take responsibility for and learn from our decisions, we move forward. We make change possible. The Bible calls this repentance, and it is one of the greatest gifts God has given man. Growing up in a “messed-up” home is not a legitimate excuse for making sinful choices in life. We need to agree with what God says about our sin. If we refuse to say that we sin or that those we love sin, we refuse the help of the One who was born to “save His people from their sins.” (Matth 1:21)

God's grace can transform us no matter what our family history. He has the power to change our very nature, our mind and heart, not just our outward behavior. (II Cor 5:17)

The fact that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard was dealt with by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. Our trouble with God has been handled by His Son in our place. God sent His

Son Jesus to die for needy, brokenhearted, messed-up people who recognize they are sinners. Instead of hiding in the dark or behind someone else, we need to focus on Christ's sacrifice for us, acknowledge our faults, repent, and turn to God. Then rest in what He has accomplished for us. "It is finished." (John 19:30)

When we give our life to Christ, His righteousness is deposited into our account. What kind of sinner you were before doesn't exist anymore. Your past is past. "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (II Cor 5:21) We are given provision for doing battle against the world, the flesh, and Satan through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The hopelessness of the past can now have a purpose – to bring glory to God today and bring hope to others. God's name is proclaimed when tragedy is turned into triumph.

Choose to put the excuses behind and surrender your past to God. In the power of God's grace, choose to live your life for Him, asking Him to use the mistakes of the past for His glory. Trust Him. He is good enough, powerful enough, and wise enough to turn your life around and free you from the sins you never thought you'd find freedom from.

"He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For he knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Ps 103:10-14)