

BREAKING GENERATIONAL CURSES

Are generational “curses” real? The Bible calls such curses “iniquities” (see “Sin, Transgression and Iniquities” under “Healing Foundations”).

God included the passing on of iniquities to future generations as part of the Second Commandment:

- *You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵you 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, ⁶but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.* (Exodus 20:4-6)

Other verses that speak to such generational iniquities are:

- *Our fathers sinned and are no more, but we bear their iniquities.* (Lamentations 5:7)
- *There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.* (Psalm 38:3-4)
- *Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities.* (Micah 7:18-19)
- *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

Some Christians believe that this “curse” of **generational iniquities** was taken away by the blood of Jesus when He was crucified. However, Jesus said “*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill*” (Matthew 5:17).

- Although Jesus wiped out “*the handwriting of requirements that was against us*” (Colossians 2:14), He did **not wipe out** the **Ten Commandments** that were not written by the hand of man but rather by the “*finger of God*” (Exodus 31:18)

In fact, Jesus became the curse on the tree to redeem us from all kinds of curses, including generational iniquities:

- *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.* (Galatians 3:13)

But this past tense translation does not fully reflect the sense of the Greek’s perfective tense wherein an action is completed (“*it is finished*” John 19:30) but its ramifications are accomplished over time (“*by His stripes we are healed*” Isaiah 53:5).

- Everyone is **not fully healed** when they are “**born again**.” Instead, **through faith** we have to **apply the Word of God** into our lives and situations.
- **Nor** are we **healed** of generational iniquities that are passed down our bloodline and **corrupt our DNA** (e.g. alcoholism, high blood pressure, fear, abuse, etc.) **until we ask Jesus to do so**.

Just as we must **ask for forgiveness** of our sins which then **activates** 1John 1:9 into our lives (“*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”), so too we must **appropriate Galatians 3:13** (above) to be **cleansed of unrighteous iniquities**

- Psalm 32:5 *I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*