**You Are Free From Generational Curses**

**Introduction**

Much has been taught in Christian circles about generational curses. Sadly, much of this teaching has led to fear and confusion. We know that God is a God of love and not a God who causes fear:

**18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

**1 John 4:18**

We also know that God is not a God of confusion.

**33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**

**1 Corinthians 14:33**

So, why then do so many Christians worry about generational curses? The best conclusion I can come up with is incomplete teaching. I do not doubt for a minute the sincerity of people who advocate their teaching about generational curses but there is so much they are not teaching that refutes it.

I have noticed that almost all Christians I have spoken to who have heard about generational curses cannot tell me where in the Bible it is mentioned. Amazing! They believe something but have not studied it for themselves!

So let us take a look at what the Bible actually says.

**The Text**

The whole teaching of generational curses comes from a text in the Book of Exodus.

**5 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;**

**Exodus 20:5**

Please understand that the context of a verse is very important. I like the old saying, ‘a text without a **con**text is just a **con’**. Applying that saying to this verse is certainly true. Sadly, many Christians have been conned into thinking that they have inherited generational curses from the sins of their parents, grandparents or great grandparents.

The preceding two verses in Exodus 20 show the context, which is concerning having another deity and making and worshipping idols.

**3Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

**4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth.**

**Exodus 20:3-4**

So, even if generational curses still existed for the believer (which they don’t, but do exist for the unbeliever) they would only be applicable to those whose parents, grandparents or great grandparents worshipped false deities.

Notice too the last few words of Exodus 20:5 “**them that hate me”**. So this verse only applies to those who hate God. If you don’t hate God, the verse doesn’t apply to you.

**It’s All Sour Grapes**

Now I would like us to look at two passages from the Old Testament that say almost the same thing:

**29 In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge.**

**30 But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge.**

**31 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:**

**Jeremiah 31:29-31**

**2 What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?**

**3 *As* I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have *occasion* any more to use this proverb in Israel.**

**Ezekiel 18:2-3**

Apparently back in the days of Jeremiah and Ezekiel this was a popular saying and meant that the children would suffer because of the sins of their fathers (i.e. generational curses). However, we also see that God is saying that this proverb will come to an end.

When Jesus was dying on the cross He drank sour wine (the King James uses the word vinegar). The Greek word used here is *oxos* and means *sour wine*.

**28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.**

**29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.**

**30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

**John 19:28-30**

Notice that Jesus said, “I thirst” (verse 28). Although those who heard Him thought He was thirsty and so gave Him sour wine, I do not believe that Jesus was simply asking for a drink to quench His thirst. For starters, sour wine would not quench His thirst.

Please read verse 28 again. You will notice that the context of Jesus saying, “I thirst” was to fulfil scripture. But what scripture? I believe it refers to the scripture we have just looked at in Jeremiah 31: 29-31 and Ezekiel 18:2-3. When Jesus received the sour wine (sour grapes) He was taking the curse that belonged to the children (the generational curse). Jesus thirsted, not for drink, but for us to be set free from all curses including the generational curse.

**New in Christ**

The Apostle Paul wrote that when we come to Christ old things pass away and all things become new.

**17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

**1 Corinthians 5:17**

Remember that the generational curse is passed down through those who don’t love God. But when you get born again you are born into the family of God and so you get a new dad – God Himself who has no sin to pass down to you. That is why generational curses can’t exist for the Christian. If you remember only one thing from this teaching please let it be this.

When we are born into the family of God we are new born babies in Christ with our past removed. That is why God doesn’t remember our sins anymore; they have been removed.

**17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

**Hebrews 10:17**

**Summary**

In this study we have looked at many scriptures and many reasons why generational curses do not exist for the Christian. So let us summarise what we have looked at:

* The popular teaching about generational curses brings fear and confusion but God is not a God who brings fear or confusion.
* The context of Exodus 20:5 is worshipping false deities and making idols which many of our parents or grandparents did not do.
* Generational curses exist for those who hate God (that means that generational curses are real for the unbeliever).
* The popular proverb in Israel in the days of Jeremiah and Ezekiel was made null and void by Jesus at the cross.
* Christians can’t inherit their fathers’ sins because Christians have a new father - God - who has no sin.