

11th Grade Devotional 3



"As long as I'm not hurting anyone else, what difference does it make what I do?" Ever heard someone say that when trying to justify their questionable actions? Ever said that yourself?

It is a popular rebuttal when being corrected for inappropriate behavior. However, none of us live in a bubble. The things we do, whether good or bad, affect the lives of others. According to scripture, they can affect our family line for generations. Deuteronomy 7 lists the benefits that will be passed down for those who obey God's commands.

Read Deuteronomy 7:7-15

That's quite a list of blessings and protection that is promised. And not just to the next generation but to "a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments." However, there is a flip side to this principle as well. Look at what Numbers 14:18 has to say.

Numbers 14:18

¹⁸'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 parents to the third and fourth generation.'

We can be dealing with problems that are brought on by ancestors we never even met, yet their sinful choices are still affecting their family line for generations after they are gone.

Now, it is important to acknowledge that the overriding principle of scripture is that each individual is ultimately responsible for their own choices and actions through their relationship with God. However, it is helpful to understand the source of some of our tendencies and desires.

Know your legacy. Understand what you might expect because of your family heritage and do all you can to hand down the blessings of loving and obeying God to the generations to come.

Parents:

Share with your student how family has impacted your life for the good or for the bad. Talk about your hopes for their future as a husband or wife, a mother or father, and other aspects of family. Pray with your student for their future spouse and family.