

Genesis 49:1-7

Unstable, Violent, Angry

Family ties ...

I. Iniquity of the Fathers

- A. Reuben and the Reubenites
- B. Simeon and the Simeonites
- C. Levi and the Levites

II. Troubling Generations

- A. Tribal Trademarks?
- B. Propagating trouble
- C. Inheriting Habits

III. Breaking Destructive Patterns

- A. Redemption
- B. Renewal
- C. Reversal

... that need breaking.

Children, Listen ...

1. Does God forgive us our sins if we are truly sorry for them and ask him to forgive and change us?
2. Does God's forgiveness mean that all the bad things that come from our sin just go away?
3. If our parents behave badly, is that an excuse for us to act the same way?
4. Who is the only one who can really break the chains of sin?
5. Can God forgive and change people who angry and violent?

Consequences

Sin has consequences. Even after full repentance and forgiveness the ramifications of sin can linger, not only in the life of the offender, but sometimes in generations to follow. Each one of us must take heed of three things with regard to choosing a particular transgression. Yes, we must face it, even Christians choose to sin. First and foremost we must keep in mind that it is against God. Second we have to consider the fact that all sin is, to some degree, self-destructive. Third we must consider the impact of our sin on others. With this third aspect in mind we must not only think of the injuries direct targets of our sin sustain, but we must take into serious consideration the patterns we set for our families and the examples we set for our friends. If we have embraced a certain sinful practice(s) for our very own there are at least three things we must do. First we must seek forgiveness from the Lord and sincerely turn from our sin. Second we must submit ourselves willingly to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit within us (this obviously only applies to believers). Third we must be open about our failures and strive to correct destructive patterns for the sake of those who witness and may well mimic our behavior [parents take special note]. By the grace of God no one in Christ needs to stay trapped in life dominating sin – even those in the grips of those sins highlighted in our passage – unruliness, anger and violence – can be set free by the power of God. Don't wallow in your sin any longer, repent and be transformed to the glory of God, the sanctification of your soul, and the good of others.