

# Healing the Wound of Fatherlessness

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## Session 3b: The Generational Consequences of the Father Wound

### I. Father Wounds & Dishonour

#### 1. Wounds & Offences

- *Prov 18:19 A brother wronged is more unyielding than a fortified city; disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel*
  - Many people carry unresolved wounds in their hearts that trace back to their father or mother
  - When people become wounded they build walls of offence in their heart to protect themselves from further hurt
  - These walls of offence and unforgiveness energise the desire for revenge
  - Unresolved Father Wounds inevitably lead to dishonour

#### 2. Honour

- Honour....Hb..Kabad....weighty, important to place value upon, to treat with respect, to hold in high esteem
- Honour....Gk.....Time....worth or value
- Honour means to treat people with respect and dignity, and the value they are due. This is especially true of relationships with parents

#### 3. Dishonour

- Dishonour means to treat lightly, of no importance, to curse or speak evil of, speak disrespectfully of
- **People dishonour their Parents by:**
  - Disobedience
  - Ignoring their counsel
  - Speaking disrespectfully
  - Neglecting or abandoning them
  - Publicly or privately shaming them
  - Exploiting them

### II. The Promise of the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

#### • Old Testament

- *Deut 5:16 'Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, **and that it may be well with you** in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

#### • New Testament

- *Eph 6:2 "HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise:*  
*Eph 6:3 "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."*

- **Jesus Teaching**
  - *Mat 15:4 For God commanded, saying 'HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER; and HE WHO CURSES FATHER AND MOTHER, LET HIM BE PUT TO DEATH.'*
- **Personal Experience**
- **My experience with counselling**
  - The majority of people whom I see have issues whose roots trace back to unresolved heart wounds with a Father or Mother or both.
  - They are unable to make the connection that the current issues they are struggling with are closely connected to their family of origin
- **Key Points:**
  1. **The Promise:**
    - It is the First Commandment with a Promise
      - The promise is long life and life going well
      - The opposite is also true; If we dishonour then life will not go well and it will have negative impact upon our health
  2. **The Condition:**
    - There is a single condition for the promise to be fulfilled: Honour
    - "Honour"...includes respect, gratitude, care, quality time with them especially as parents age
      - "Honour" applies to both Father and also Mother
      - Honour us foundational to healthy families, churches and society

### III. **The Generational Consequences of Father Wounds**

1. **The Consequences of Father Wounds are Generational**
  - **Unresolved father wounds are expressed in attitudes, words and action that communicate dishonour our parent**
    - Dishonoring our father (or mother) will result in unexpected negative consequences in our lives
  - **The consequences of dishonour is Generational**
    - That means that patterns of father wounding, negative reactions and dishonour continue to manifest from generation to generation
    - Instead of blessing and love, there is conflict and oppression
2. **Consequences of Dishonouring your Father**
  - **Where there is dishonour of a father, "Life does not go well"**
    - There are constant personal issues and relational issues that do not go away
    - Counselling is not enough as the energy driving them is spiritual
  - **Examples**
    1. **Cursing**
      - *Deut 27:16 "cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt." And all the people shall say, 'Amen'*

- A Curse is a cycle of failure or oppression empowered by demonic spirits
- Once a curse has been initiated it continues until it is broken.
- The issues and conflict you had with your father are repeated between you and your children

## 2. Demonic defilement & oppression

- Eph 4:26 *"BE ANGRY AND DO NOT SIN:" do not let the sun go down on your wrath,*  
Eph 4:27 *nor give place to the devil*
  - Unresolved Father wounds create open doors for demonic oppression
  - Demons have a legal right to access and torment
  - This causes mental and emotional torments that do not go away

## 3. Spiritual Blindness

- Pro 20:20 *Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness*
- 1 Jhn 2:11 *But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, **because the darkness has blinded his eyes***
  - To walk in darkness means one is unable to see clearly what is happening
  - When people carry father wounds and dishonour they are unable to see the cause of troubles they are having in relationships
  - They excuse themselves and blame others but cannot see the true heart and relational issues

## 4. Bitterness

- Heb 12:15 *looking careful lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*
  - Unresolved roots of bitterness towards a father defile all relationships
  - They also cause negative bitter expectation that relationships will fail
  - These bitter roots reproduce in relationships with children, especially sons

## 5. Relationship Issues with Authority Figures

- Rom 13:1 *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God*  
Rom 13:2 *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgement on themselves*
  - Unresolved anger towards a parent leads to active or passive resistance towards them
  - Since your father is your first authority figure, this anger and resistance becomes directed at all authority figures
  - There is a strong resistance and anger towards "being told what to do"

## 6. Distressed marriages

- *Eph 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife, loves himself*
  - Unhealed father wounds fuel anger and resentment and bitterness towards him
  - Since you came from your father and carry his DNA, you struggle with identity and self-hate issues
  - It is difficult to love your wife wholeheartedly when you struggle with disliking yourself
- Sometimes if a father is silent or passive his wife takes charge and controls the family to overcome her feelings of insecurity
  - She may become critical and controlling of her sons and daughters
  - This may cause sons to despise their father for being weak and resent their mother for controlling the family
  - All this overflows in the marriage

## 7. Dysfunctional Families

- *Col 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged NKJV*
- *Col 3:21 Fathers, don't make your children bitter. If you do, they will lose hope NIV*
  - People copy and imitate the dysfunctional relationship patterns they grew up with
  - Even if they were hurt by these patterns, they are usually attracted to spouses who will enable them to continue this dysfunction
  - It takes courage to face the unresolved heart wound, and the dysfunctional patterns and to make changes
  - Transformation and healing is greatly facilitated by having godly models of what it means to be a good father and husband
- If dysfunctional family patterns and their roots are not resolved and healed the patterns are repeated in the next generation
- *The iniquity of the fathers is visited upon the children and children's children until the third and fourth generation Exod 20:5*

## IV. Examples of Father Wounds Having Generational Consequences

- Ham.....the son of Noah
- Absalom.....the son of King David
- Michal.....the daughter of King Saul
- Rehoboam.....The son of King Solomon

## **V. Activations**

- 1. What part of this teaching had the greatest impact upon you?**
  - Why was this so?
- 2. Can you remember times when you have dishonoured your father or mother?**
  - What caused you to do that?
  - How did it affect your relationship with them?
- 3. Which of the consequences of dishonouring a father do you connect with the most?**
  - Why is that?
  - Is Holy Spirit drawing your attention to an issue to resolve?