



## **By no means clearing the guilty**

Exodus 34:6-7

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ’maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. **Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.**”

### **SERMON SUMMARY**

God’s character is not just one thing. He is of grace, and of wrath. He is a God of love, and also of justice. All these things work together and He is worthy of all worship. He’s a relational God.

**Because God is forgiving, we can take our sin straight to the cross and let it die on Jesus’ shoulders.**

- God is keeping steadfast love towards us, demonstrating Hesed love towards us
- He forgives all our iniquities (wickedness), transgressions (rebellion), and sin
- It is in God’s character to forgive and He does so eagerly

**Because God is just, we look forward to the day when He will judge the world and banish evil forever.**

- God is forgiving, but He is also just.
- God’s justice isn’t about payback, it is about healing. God’s plan is a world without any evil.
- The guilty will be punished and your sin will be punished...who pays for it?

The end of verse 7 mentions that God will punish the children and their children. This may be hard to reconcile with knowing our God is gracious and compassionate. But all this is in line with His character. It is important to note that punishment does not mean death and everyone will stand before God on their own merits (see Deut 24:16 and Ez 18:20).

### **Parents' sin have consequences for the children.**

- This is the passive wrath of God – sin is its own punishment. Sin hurts not only you, but those around you and especially your children. (ex: cheating on a spouse or abuse)
- This doesn't mean God can't bring healing and restoration, but the consequences of sin don't just go away.

### **Sin runs in the family.**

- The struggles and values of parents are passed on to their children. The same dysfunctional patterns reoccur in the kids' lives. (ex: greed, drugs & alcohol, lying to get ahead)

### **God will punish sin in each generation until it is completely gone.**

- God hates sin and evil and will get rid of it. He will punish it in each generation.
- Just because your parent got away with sin, doesn't mean God won't punish your sin. And just because God already punished your parent's sin, doesn't mean God won't punish yours.
- But know that God's love is exponentially greater than his wrath. He will show his steadfast love to thousands of generations vs punishing sin to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation.

### **Numbers 14 – The children suffer because of the parents decisions, but will rejoice because of God's forgiveness.**

- God tells Moses he will destroy the Israelites because of their constant rebellion against God. Moses quotes Ex 34:6-7 back to God and asks God to forgive them. And God immediately does. However, there were still consequences. The next generation had to grow up in the desert because of their parent's sin but were allowed into the promised land.

### **Our response: God will deal with sin – how will he deal with yours?**

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited number of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!
- Set aside a time to pray for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.

- Regularly recap how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
  - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?
  - Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?
- What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?
- How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?

## QUESTIONS

**Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss or make up your own!**

**Getting to know you:**

- In what ways do you want to be like your parents?
- What about ways you don't want to be like them?

**Into the Bible:**

- It is in God's character to forgive eagerly.
  - Can you think of instances in the Bible where God displays this characteristic?
- What does generational sin mean?
- Sin doesn't affect only you; it affects those around you too
  - Do you agree with this statement?
  - Name some examples of sin you commit that affects others
- Read Deuteronomy 24:16 and Ezekiel 18:20
  - What do these two verses say about punishment?
- Read Genesis 27, the story of Jacob and Esau.
  - How do you see generational sin happen here?
- Parents' sin has consequences for their children
  - If you feel comfortable sharing, has this been true for you?

- Sin runs in the family
  - How have you seen this to be true in your life or other's lives?
  - What values of your parents have been passed onto you?
- What consequences of your own sin have you experienced in your life?
- Even though we feel the effects of our own sin and the sin of our parents, God brings healing and restoration.
  - How have you experienced God's healing?
- Knowing that God is gracious, slow to anger, has steadfast love and faithfulness towards us, forgives, but by no means clears the guilty, how does this change your outlook in your faith journey?

**Pray:**

- Pray that we will be reminded that God will bring justice into this world
- Pray that God will bring healing and restoration to our families

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**College:**

- Epic's Christmas party is on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm in MU13

**All church:**

- Club Roots Christmas Party is on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm at Grant
- Children's Ministry Christmas Program is on December 8<sup>th</sup>, during both services
- There will only be one service on December 15, 22, and 29