

Healing Hereditary Hurts

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Deuteronomy 6:7.

B. Just because people are Christians does not mean they have a Christian home.

C. Secular writings do not always have the answer—they do not know where to start. Scripture teaches us where to start—with God.

II. Parents must be healed before children can be healed. Parents are models and children will invariably follow their models.

III. The laws must be taught diligently to their children.

A. This is not chronological.

B. This is a logical order of steps.

IV. The reasons parents are given the responsibility.

A. Parents are the most influential people in the child's life.

1. God is always ready to meet us where we are.

2. This responsibility cannot be passed on to others.

B. The healing of a family weakness must be passed off to several generations before it can be corrected.

1. There is some suggestion that we can change the genetic patterns of our children.

2. There is a power in hereditary influence. What you are is passed along genetically in your children, so they suffer for our misdeeds.

V. The requisites—what we need to know to train children.

A. We need to understand the goal toward which we are moving.

1. The goal should not be material success, for this is empty.

2. The goal should be preparedness for life—children should become God-reliant people.

3. We must become this sort of person and then seek to inculcate these values in our children.

4. The goal is to transfer obedience, so children must be able to make their own decisions gradually.

5. Parents ought not to be seen through a chain of command but a chain of guidance.

B. We need to understand the relationship parents have with their children.

1. We cannot make our children fulfill our lives.

2. They are separate people fulfilling their own lives.

3. We must ultimately learn to relate to them as friends.

C. We must understand from the Scriptures the nature of children.

1. Children are not morally neutral people—folly is bound up in their hearts. The job and role of a parent is discipline so that the child will gain freedom. (Proverbs 22:15)

2. Children are different, so it is the job of the parent to discover the child's way and encourage him in that. (Proverbs 22:6)

a. The spiritual gifts help here.

b. Love gives security and identity in an atmosphere of encouragement and acceptance.

Application questions:

1. What is the goal that parents are moving their children? Is this the same in every circumstance?

2. What underlying truth about children does the need for discipline suggest? Explain.

3. What identity do you think your children have, and how can you encourage them along their own way?
