

MY MOTHER MADE ME DO IT

Biblical History of mothers and their influence

- a. Back to the garden. The first lie caused doubt of God's goodness—running, hiding in shame-- selfishness and blame. Distortion of good. Sin, chaos and confusion. “Not letting anyone tell me what to do” passed to next generation, Cain killed Abel. Not Cain's rebellion, but Abel's disobedience was the problem. Broken relationships, pain of a mother losing two sons, chaos and confusion. Isaac and Jacob followed fathers' footsteps--lies, doubting God's protection, swayed by women. 12 sons of Jacob learned deception of father and manipulation of mothers.
- b. First commandment (Exodus 20:5-6; Deut. 5:9-10) John Calvin said *our hearts are idol factories and our worship and actions are shaped by our pursuit of the things our hearts crave.*
- c. (Isaiah 26:8) God's name and renown replaced with our name and our renown.

Nature \Nurture:

- a. Sinful bent at birth - learn to live in it comfortably. Children learn from parents to live and rebel against God-- part of DNA. Romans 3:10-18
- b. Sin “family” lives in looks like effective way to control life and people and keep our hearts safe.
- c. The lie: I don't want anyone telling me what to do, and God's word/actions are not trustworthy. Sin passed down thru words and actions.
- d. Deut. 6:5-7 God knew we need constant reminders and what is lived is caught.
- e. First family and ancient ruins of generations legacy--god was self, in charge in own hearts-- kids learned it was “all about them.” Selfishness leads to hurt, betrayal, deception and even murder. Selfishness - having my own needs met, protecting my heart and getting exactly what I want, no matter the cost to others.
- f. Paul Tripp: War of Word from James 4:1: *Battles within us ensue because we want our desires met—NOW. We learn to do whatever it takes to get our needs met-to stay in control. When God is not in control of our desires they morph into the sin of self love. So my desire becomes a demand, which becomes a need, which becomes an expectation, which when unmet leads to disappointment and then to punishment of that which did not meet my need.*
- g. Reality: Sin creates confusion and chaos. Generational sin creates confusion and chaos for generations. Unwritten, unspoken rule of GS--“Don't make a mess, don't screw up.” Strive to keep things clean, to keep the mess hidden even from ourselves. As believers in GS--our hearts hard toward God. Hard hearts cause ignorance, blindness to truth. (Eph 4:17-20)

Personal History of Generational Sin—it was my mother who made me do it.

Linda's family history

- a. Grandparents European immigrants -- the only way to succeed was to work hard.
- b. DAD: Family - worked hard and played hard, drank hard. **Grandma** prideful, controlling, manipulative and demanding. Dad and his siblings—workaholics/alcoholics. All paid high price.
- c. MOM: **Grandma** distrusted, controlled, bitter, distant --no friends. Died bitter/regretful. Mom learned self protection thru escape or paid the price.
- d. MY family: Dad alcoholic-behavior unpredictable. **Mom** stayed out of the way--expected to be good wife or was punished. Sarcasm-used. Feelings can't be trusted. Mom depressed-lie she lived by was protecting self at all costs. Lesson: rely on & protect self. **Mom**: passive aggressive, crossed emotional boundaries. Mom's contempt/toleration of dad caused confusion & disrespect. Secrets and the shame led to no friends and misplaced loyalty. Sisters & I: looked for men for stability/value/ sexually active young/ premarital pregnancy.

- e. Me--too smart to get caught. Nursing school/left home--determined, strong willed independent. Married at 21/divorced 5 years later b/c of husband's drinking/pot smoking. Weapons-sarcasm, anger, threats, confrontation, opposite of mom. Generational sin-one extreme or the other. Became like my parents-adept at criticism, pride and disrespect & lived by assumptions presented as truth. Used control to escape. CRAZY! Met Craig, married, moved 1300 miles from home & lost control. Strong willed, independent, self reliant--tried harder--prideful, controlling, self protective, and critical. Low point-disappointed and angry-*What I was doing wasn't working*. Surrendered to Christ and so did Craig. Submission & respect--huge issues. Moved home for 4 years--then to St. Louis for 20 years. Craig and I--Submission leadership wrestle. God breaking me of pride, control and assumptions. Pride builds walls and humility builds bridges. Self protections builds walls of loneliness and dissatisfaction, assumptions get you in trouble and leave big messes to clean up. Paul Tripp's stuff about desire had profound effect. I alienated what I wanted most: time with my husband.

God's remedy for generational sin: Change

- a. Change not easy-involves pain. Enemy appeals to pride, desire to control, and demand not to be told what to do. He works to keep us bound in sin. The heart entrenched in GS is set on maintaining control to keep the pattern alive. When family is god, they will do anything to keep you looking and acting like them. Even in believers roots run deep-identifying and destroying lifelong patterns is tedious. Change is threatening. GS is a master-won't let go easily. Recognizing it is only the beginning. God's plan: grace and unlimited loving kindness. God is all about delivering us from sinful patterns. Goal: make us like Jesus, he stops at nothing to destroy behaviors/attitudes keeping us from surrender. Ezekiel 36:26

THE ROAD MAP: Great allegory: Hinds Feet on High Places.

From Control to Surrender

- a. First Path: necessary to reach destination. Control is an illusion- it makes a mess & doesn't accomplish our desire-it sets us up as idols. Surrender necessary every day.
- b. Romans 12:1-2.
- c. Loyalty to "family" needs to change.

From Pride to Humility

- a. Pride=legalism (rules & regulations, not heart) protects from intimacy. Performance kills passion. **Isaiah 29:1**
- b. **Proverbs 29:23** pride lowers us, humility honors. Humbly ask Christ to reveal sin of control & continuing GS.
- c. **Psalm 51:7**
- d. **James 4:6**

From Assumptions and lies to truth

- a. **Assume-** take for granted, suppose or accept something as true without proof--presuming. Truth of Word penetrates heart to expose lies & personal responsibility/sin in carrying family baggage. Assumptions imprison us to approval of people.
- b. Sometimes we don't speak the lies-we live them & hearts are crushed. 2 Cor. 10:5 - demolish assumptions/lies.

- c. Psalm 19:13-14-sins of presumption and ends with the prayer: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

From manipulation & independence to repentance & dependence

- a. Independence=idolatry. Sin of Adam and Eve reaped ruin on all generations.
- b. Hebrew 12:1
- c. Isaiah 55:8-9
- d. Psalm 86:11-12
- e. Grief is part of repentance. Repentance- reversing thinking and acting differently.
- f. 2 Cor. 7:10
- g. 2 Peter 3:9

From criticism & disrespect to loving truth and respect

- a. Criticism/disrespect-results of life of control-distance us from things we want most. “Always” and “never” statements tear down character. Disrespect causes contempt & shame--one of the definitions is “to curse.”
- b. Eph 4:15-16
- c. Our own hearts are profoundly affected by the criticism we think and speak.
- d. Romans 12:10
- e. 1Peter 3:1-2

From distrust of God and people to trust in God alone

- a. Trust reversed: we trust people rather than God & when people are untrustworthy we think God is too. Psalm 118:8
- b. Relearn it.
- c. Proverbs 3:5-6
- d. Psalm 56:11
- e. Don’t put yourself in dangerous situations.

From protection to risk

- a. Self protection-lonely prison - protects us from hurt, & happiness, joy, fun and love. Risk involved.
- b. Psalm 119:36-37
- c. Phil. 2:3-4
- d. Romans 8:35-39

From sarcasm and anger to gentleness and forgiveness

- a. Forgiveness important. Eph. 4:26
- b. If unbelievers they are doing what comes naturally-living for self. If believers God’s plan is freedom.
- c. Eph. 4:29-32
- d. Psalm 103:8
- e. Proverbs 15:1

From escape to reality

- a. Denial and escape don’t make reality go away. “Every time I close the door on reality it comes in through the window.”
- b. Heb. 3:13

- c. Ask someone trustworthy to walk with you.
- d. Don't drag skeletons out of the closet that don't exist. God tells us to seek not obsess.
- e. Eph 5:15
- f. God will not ask you to dishonor your family, but to see things from his perspective. Speak truth gently and in love.
- g. Gal. 5:16-17

The heart of God

- a. God's heart is kindness towards us.
- b. Romans 2:4
- c. Isaiah 54:10
- d. 2 Chronicles 16:9
- e. God's heart is to support and protect us in our repentance.
- f. See our families as he does-frail human sinners. See ourselves as he does, daughters of the King,
- g. Isaiah 61- He came to proclaim liberty to the captives.
- h. Tributes to parents.
- i. Isaiah 61:1-7.

Resources:

Breaking Free by Beth Moore. B & H Publishers, 2000

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands by Paul Tripp. P & R Publishing Co., 2002

Soul Talk by Larry Crabb. Integrity Publishers, 2003

War of Words by Paul Tripp, P&R Publishing, 2000

Hinds Feet on High Places by Hannah Hurnard. Tyndale Publishers, 1975

Who I am...

I am currently a woman of God living in a world that is not my home. I long for what will be yet stay present in the reality of what is in this broken world. Craig and I live with our two dogs Charger and Zoey, two cats Peaches and Patches, who my friend Beth said I should have named Kitty and Lydia from our favorite movie Pride & Prejudice. I have been Women's Minister at Summit Community Church in O'Fallon Mo for 10 years. Much of what I do is help women understand the "what is" and the "what is not yet" of the life of a follower of Christ. My job entails much more than women, because when you touch women, you touch everyone and everything in their world. I have a master's in counseling from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, which I utilize hourly in my job and in my life. I love to bead, shop, watch movies, do lunch, spend time at our lake home in Lake of the Ozarks, MO and come to Phoenix to hang out with my "Jonathan" friend Beth Hancock. I have three grown step children and seven grandchildren we love to visit and spoil. Every day God shows me that the cost of following Him is worth it.

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