

6. From Worrier to Warrior

Bloodlines – Series

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Sermon Notes



We're going through a series called **Bloodlines: Winning Freedom For My Family**. Most of us are also going through this experience together in our small groups. The apostle Paul warns us in **Ephesians 4:27** that we should not give the enemy a **foothold**.

Through this experience, we are **identifying** the major doors where the enemy has gained a foothold in our families, and then **through prayer, we are kicking him out and we're closing those doors**. The doors we have learnt to close so far are the door of **pride**, the door of **lies** about ourselves and God, the door of **alternative gods** and the door of **bitterness**

Today we look at door Number 5: Are we ready?

Its traditions that form culture. For example with the wedding ceremony.

- **Pope Innocent III introduced the period of waiting between betrothal and marriage in 1214**, and engaged couples started displaying their commitment with a ring. Engagement and wedding rings go on the third finger of your left hand because ancient Egyptians believed the vein in that hand ran directly to the heart.
- The groomsmen who proved to be the most skilled kidnappers became the "best man". And **the kidnapped bride stood to the groom's left, so that his right hand was free to fight off rival suitors.**
- The **wedding party dressed alike to confuse evil spirits** who might target the bride and groom.
- The bouquet that the bride carries was originally made of herbs like garlic and rosemary, rather than flowers. **It was thought that these herbs would ward off evil spirits.**
- Roman **grooms carried their brides over the threshold to protect them from the demons** that lived in the floor.
- Ancient Norse **bridal couples went into hiding after the wedding**, and a family member would bring them a cup of honey wine for 30 days. Which is how we got the honeymoon — people celebrated weddings with one moon's worth of honey wine.

This is powerful because this means that even in our families we can from traditions that become cultures. You can decide today that one hundred years from now, this is how your family is going to look.

Belief systems define how people do certain things.

Things done over and over again become traditions.

For example: Here in Uganda:

Generally certain tribes are known for certain things. Men from the North are known for their loyalty, Westerners for their arrogance and Central men for their pride and schemes. The kwanjula done at the father's home: because the family believes the child belongs to the father, Men getting children from many women: Polygamy believing that children stand better chances to be brilliant if mixed up. But most of these belief systems have kept us in a culture of poverty and disease.

What affects how we behave? Sociologists argue between nature and nurture:

Nature has to do with genetically inherited traits.

- Physical features like height or size of nose are usually a result of nature.
- Propensity to some illnesses can also come about because of inherited genes.

Nurture refers to learned behavior.

- Kids will always emulate their parents... this is how they learn! If you laugh a lot in your home, chances are that your kids will laugh a lot.
- If you're very intense and structured on the other hand, chances are their own homes will be the same. Right from an early age, we learn by imitating our parents or guardians.

Today we will dive into negative consequences of behavior that is passed down, whether through nature or nurture.

We call them generational curses and spiritual bondages.

- They are negative consequences that are passed on to individuals because of the words or sinful actions of the people in authority over them or of those who went ahead of them (forefathers).
- These actions have then become a culture, a way of doing life. This is who we are and this is what we do.

Some of us come from families where:

- Girls and boys get children out of wedlock not in marriage.
- None of the men make it through school or find useful work.
- You have uncontrollable anger and rage.
- You don't forgive or forget.
- There are suicides, unexplained untimely death, miscarriages, mental illness, depression, chronic generational illnesses

Why are bondages and curses effective?

Bondages:

Sinful actions performed by an ancestor may open a door that gives the enemy the right to frustrate future generations e.g.

Deut. 18:10-13 – Practices witchcraft and casting of spells. NIV and NIRV.

Lev 18: Sexual Perversion

Lev 26:1: No idolatry

Ex 22:25 - 27, 23:6-9: The poor and helpless.

Gen 4: Shedding innocent blood.

The enemy has the right to oppress and frustrate certain categories of people. Job 1:10.

When you leave in righteousness and in obedience to Gods law, God has his covering over you, when you don't the enemy has access to you and the right to frustrate, and oppress you and yours.

Curses: God has given power to the spoken word.

Prov.18:21 says '*Death and life are in the power of the tongue*'.

James3:9 says '*with the tongue we praise the Lord and Father and with it we curse men, who have been made in his image*'.

God has given a huge responsibility to people in authority, which they are meant to use for good. But they can also use it for evil or death.

Prov.26:2 limits this authority however, because it says a curse without a cause is ineffective. It says, '*Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.*'

Sometimes a curses and bondages is established because of the mentalities and patterns of thinking and behavior that creates a culture and this culture creates a curse. A vicious cycle of the same negative results. For example: If gals don't marry in our family and all the children are born out of wedlock, this becomes the expectation. It soon becomes what everyone expects and no one hopes for better and so everyone takes that trajectory. That is how a curse then becomes established.

Part of the curse of men in our culture is very few of us have seen one man in one marriage for all their lives so they do not believe it's do able so they do what they know which is cheat. In the western world it's not that they are not cursed it's just that they have seen one man with one woman all their lives so they know that's what should be done.

Part of breaking curses is mentality changes not just prayer, in the way we do business, the way we relate at office, the way we relate at home etc.

We need to walk out of these doors convinces that we actually do have power over these mentalities and behavior. It's not some spiritual cosmic thing you have no power over.

Can bondages and curses affect Christians?

Yes! They will not have eternal effect on us but they can greatly frustrate us and reduce our quality of life.

Your spirit is born again but your soul and your flesh are not.

Culture is the environment I which you grow. There is horticulture, agriculture, Indian do not come into a country thinking how can I get employed but they think which business should I start and follow up. We constantly think employment.

You can belong to God and be assured of your eternal salvation, and yet still experience frustration and difficulty if you don't close this door. God has given us victory through the cross but we still need to apply or enforce that victory into our realities.

How can we overcome generational curses?

Judges 6:22-32. NIV.

The Israelites had been tormented by the midianites but God used a fearful man called Gideon with a small army of 300 to enjoy a resounding victory over the huge midianite army.

Before he could lead his nation to victory, Gideon first had to get things right at home.

He had to get rid of the foreign gods.

God's first assignment to Gideon was to go home and to destroy his father's shrine.

Verse 27 tells us that **despite his fear, Gideon obeyed God**. It's instructive that Gideon didn't do this alone – we're told that he took 10 of his servants with him and waited until dark. They knocked down the altar to Baal, hacked down the wooden Asherah pole and made a new altar to Yahweh.

We need to replace our unrighteous practice with righteous practice.

It seems that Gideon's courageous action had broken the hold that Baal and Asherah had over his father and his family.

You can tell from the case that I am making that the door we are dealing with today is Curses and bondages.

Is it possible that there is a culture in your family that the lord would like to use you as deliverance in your family? Like he used Gideon. Yes, you break the curse but you need to replace unrighteous acts with righteous so that you establish a righteous culture over your family and that righteous culture lays the ground for blessing.

Most of us when we think curses and bondages we automatically think its demons up there disturbing us, if we can take them out e will be okay. But the reality is demons ride on mindsets and behaviors that make it conducive to do their havoc. Just taking them out will not clean house, cleaning house cleans house.

That means if you are given to pornography, you need to deal with it and stop. If you are cheating with someone's wife, you must stop, if you are cohabiting find a way of marrying the person. Take action.

How do we confront the bondages and curses in our family? Here are the ABC's...

1. Ascertain The Issues:

Gideon was Asherah poles and Baal worship. That why we ask for family trees. What are the trends that you are noticing? If you don't see them pray and ask God to reveal them to you. We pray for our family members because we realize that their own sin affects us.

2. Break The Altars

Take courage to confront them through prayer. It's a big job to close the doors that have plagued our families. , **we want to challenge each group to visit every family represented and to help that person do a Gideon's Action.**

3. Continue with The Fight

It is a process of occupation, one step at a time. Some of you are first generation believers. What cultures have to change to totally break the curse off of your family? What new mindsets have to be formed, what change is behavior has to be done?

Here at Mavuno, we have many opportunities to grow. Mizizi is an opportunity to strengthen your foundation with God and I'm so glad for the many who are in Mizizi groups. Through Life Groups, we give you fellow warriors who can stand with you as you wrestle with God for your family.

As I conclude, **I must say that I love the fact that as we break the power of the curse, we can learn to do the opposite, which is to bless ourselves and our children.** These changes will have impacts not just on our families but they will translate into our city and our country. The we will create a new culture of blessing and godliness.

FREEDOM PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You as Your child, purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I here and now reject and disown all the sins of my ancestors. As one who has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, I cancel out all demonic working that has been passed on to me from my ancestors. As one who has been crucified and raised with Christ and who sits with Him in heavenly places, I reject any and every way in which Satan may claim ownership of me. I declare myself to be eternally and completely signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. I now command every familiar spirit and every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ that is in or around me to flee my presence and never to return. I now ask You, heavenly Father, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I submit my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living sacrifice, that I may glorify You in my body. All this I do in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.