

The word “generation” is usually used to associate one with rank or hierarchy. However, the term “*generation*” in the Bible describes a family of the same characteristics. Furthermore, it speaks of only two types of spiritual families or generations that one may belong to: the wicked generation and the godly generation. And each spiritual family has its own characteristics.

1 Characteristics of the Wicked Generation (Matt 12:38-45)

The primary characteristic of the wicked generation is unbelief which leads to the rejection of Jesus ultimately and eternally. One example is when the Pharisees sought Jesus for a sign, to prove that He is who He said He is, i.e. the Son of God, the promised Messiah. But the Pharisees did not do this out of a heart of genuine seeking. They had already witnessed the numerous signs/miracles of Jesus performed during His ministry on earth, and they could not deny the authenticity of those signs/miracles. What they denied was what the miracles represented. They denied and rebelled against the Person of Jesus. Thus, Jesus rebuked them for their heart of unbelief, and called them a “*wicked generation*” (Matt 12:45). Even though they were given an abundance of evidence pointing to who Jesus said He is, they still refused to believe in Him because of their heart of unbelief. Jesus refused to give them any more signs except for “*the sign of the prophet Jonas*” (Matt 12:39). This sign points to Jesus’ resurrection three days after His crucifixion, proving His Godliness, as He is the only One who can raise Himself from the dead. This was His final sign to those who rejected Him. He continued to point out to them that the consequence of unbelief is eternal condemnation. Jesus also warned those who professed to be believers (but have unbelieving hearts), that they initially might appear to be godly, but the evil spirit that previously haunted them would return, bringing far more wickedness and evil, causing their spiritual state to be worse than the state they were before. And they would continue to grow more wicked and sinful.

2 Characteristics of the Godly Generation (Matt 12:46-50)

The ones who make up the true family of the Lord Jesus Christ belong to the godly generation. They follow and believe in Jesus and trusted Him. The godly generation is characterised by true belief. They will not only profess Jesus outwardly, but because they believe in Him, they will also obey and do the will of God the Father. Jesus continued to emphasise this because we obey the same Father as Him. We are of the same spiritual family, the same generation. And this familial bond greatly surpasses any earthly familial bond that we may have on this sinful earth. How do we obey the will of God the Father? Consider how Jesus obeyed the will of God the Father, and learn from Jesus.

May we dedicate our lives to our heavenly Father, daily seeking to please Him in every aspect of our lives. He loves us, and we must love Him too, from our heart.

+++++