

Why the "Sheep" Are ...

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And back to the flock, and back
to the fold,

'Twas a sheep that the Good
Shepherd brought!



Now, why should the
sheep be so carefully
fed

And cared for still
today?

Because there is
danger if they go wrong
They will lead the lambs astray,
For the lambs will follow the
sheep, you know,
Wherever they wander,
wherever they go!

If the sheep go wrong, it will not
be long

'Till the lambs are as wrong as
they;

So, still with the sheep we must
earnestly plead,

For the sake of the lambs today.

If the lambs are lost, what a
terrible cost

Some sheep will have to pay!

Is Strictness the Problem?

John Hall, D. D. (Edited)

A good deal of nonsense is
being palmed off today concern-
ing the reaction of a child from

over-strictness in parental train-
ing.

I sometimes hear, "My parents
brought me up so rigidly that a
reaction took place in my mind,
and I have turned away from reli-
gion."

I then ask, "Did they teach you
to be honest?"

"Yes."

"Were they strict about that?"

"Yes."

"Did they teach you to tell the
truth?"

"Yes!"

"Were they strict about that."

"Absolutely!"

"Have you suffered mental
damage because of those two in-
stances? Were those two things
wrong to insist on?" At that point
they usually just quietly shake
their head "no". Lessons taught
by parental training are often
hard, but there can be no compro-
mise in teaching many of the les-
sons a parent must teach.

No person learns the multipli-
cation table from sheer love of it.
It is always tenuous in learning it.
However, I know of no person
that has suffered mental damage
from learning it. Many of life's
lessons are also hard to master. A
strict and unwavering hand often
is needed for many to learn life's
lessons.

The Bible View



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Affecting Future Generations

Bill Brinkworth

We seldom think of the future
consequences of our sin. Too of-
ten we do what gratifies us for the
moment, and do not con-
sider what our iniquities
will cost us in the future.
However, there is usual-
ly "fruit" from our sin,
and quite often it is
"rotten".



Most of the time we reap sin's
havoc after it was sown. Some-
times the crop will be reaped dur-
ing our lifetime. Sometimes it
sprouts in generations down the
road. The after-effects of our sin
often affect future generations.
There will always be a payday
someday for our transgressions,
and it may be our future offspring
who will pay the price for our dis-
obedience to God's command-
ments.

Here is some of what the Bible
teaches about the inevitable, fu-
ture wages of our sin:

Sin can affect family mem-
bers.

*"How oft is the candle of the
wicked put out! and how oft
cometh their destruction upon
them! God distributeth sorrows
in his anger. ... 19 God layeth up*

*his iniquity for his children: he
rewardeth him, and he
shall know it. 20 His eyes
shall see his destruction,
and he shall drink of the
wrath of the Almighty."*
*Job 21:17-20 Also: Lev.
20:5, Jos. 7:24-25.*

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Why the "Sheep" Are Important

Gospel Herald

'Twas a sheep not a lamb, that
went astray

In the parable (Mat. 18:12-14)

Jesus told.

'Twas a grown-up sheep that
wandered away
From the ninety and nine in the
fold.

And out on the hilltops and out
in the cold.

'Twas a sheep that the Good
Shepherd sought.

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Affecting Future ...

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“But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.” Num. 14:32-33 Because of idolatry, God’s hand did not help or guide a sinner’s family. For that reason, many wandered aimlessly through the desert for 40 years, when the trip to the Promised Land could have been done in weeks.

Sin can be learned from parents, and thus be seen as “accepted” by their children, and then practiced by the offspring. That is why

one of the primary responsibilities of a parent is to be a godly example to their children.

“And he [King Jeroboam] walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.” I Kings 15:3 A parental, bad example often points offspring in the wrong direction.

“And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way

of his father, and in the way of his mother,” I King 22:52
Also: I Kings 15:26.

At times, the consequences of a parent’s sins will be expressed to even their fourth generation. Sin can be shared to future generations by learning and accepting it as “normal” from their parent’s actions. Sometimes God allows future, undisciplined generations to reap the consequence of their own actions without His merciful interventions.

“Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the chil-

dren, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.” Ex. 34:7
Also: Ex. 20:5, Num. 14:18, Num. 14:32, I Kings 21:29, Isa. 65:6.

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, ...” Deu. 5:9-10 No-

When you disobey God's commandments you are "teaching" your children to do the same!

“ARE you sowing today that which you will regret tomorrow?”

time that part of the reason God’s mercy will not deter a sinner’s future continuance in sin is that the original sinner hated God. He pushed God out of his life; so God will stay out of future generations, unless they personally call on Him.

Family and future generations can reap some consequences of the sinner’s actions unless God intervenes. The Old Testament Law did not require the death of a sinner’s immediate family. A child can be spared the consequences of their family’s sin and even their own, if they do right and obey God!

“The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.” Deut. 24:16

“As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, spoiled his brother by violence, and did that which is not good among his people, lo, even he shall die in his iniquity. 19 Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. 20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” Eze. 18:18-20 Just because the parent(s) did evil in God’s

eyes, does not mean that the children must also suffer the consequences of what the parents did. They can alter God’s wrath by living right and obeying God! Also: Lev. 26:39-42, Jer. 32:18.

No one has to sin because of some “magic” pull on their life. They are not destined to be a thief like daddy, a liar like mommy, a drunkard like Uncle Albert, an idol worshipper like family members, or a homosexual like Aunt Sally. Since we are all born sinners, it does not take much training to get us to go in the sinful way of our parents.

Sin is always a personal decision. No one is forced to sin. One can always say “no” to iniquity’s involvement. We all have the opportunity to spurn sin and adhere to righteous living!

One can see from the many biblical examples that there is an awesome responsibility on the shoulders of a parent. That obligation is to be good, biblical example to young observing eyes. Disobeying God’s commandments can affect others around you and future generations. However, obeying God and being a good, righteous example can also affect others, present and future, for the good. What kind of example are you?

“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Rom. 14:12