

INHERITED BAGGAGE!



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Inside Out

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It is possible to break the cycle of inherited struggles by embracing our position as God's children!

SERMON SUMMARY

Our current series is called Inside Out. In it we are focusing on the spiritual transformation God wants for us. One of the challenges we face in our pursuit of spiritual transformation is that we inherit behaviors and characteristics from our family. Sometimes these are helpful in deepening our relationship with God, while at other times they can hinder our spiritual development. This isn't uncommon as even people like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had to deal with inherited baggage. Thankfully God can help us overcome the challenges we face. He does that by adopting us into His family. If we can embrace our identity as a child of God and live confidently as a member of God's family, we will be able to overcome any inherited baggage we may have been carrying.

- In the Old Testament we get a picture of how one famous family struggled with dishonesty and that was passed on from one generation to the next. And yet, God blessed them in some incredible ways (see Gen. 12; 20:1-18; Gen. 26; Gen. 27)
 - What are some of the positive characteristics that Abraham's family would have inherited from him? Why do you think it was so hard Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to be honest?
 - The fact that God was faithful to his promise to Abraham and his family, in spite of their struggles, shows us how God will deal with us. What can we learn from this that is both encouraging and challenging? Does this mean God condones sin?
- In our text John talks about how incredible it is that God has called us his children.
 - What does it mean to abide or continue in Christ (vs. 2:28)? Why is this so important?
 - Why is the fact that God has called us his children considered a lavish display of God's love? What are the benefits of being a child of God?
 - How should being a part of a God's family impact the way we live each day?
- If we take time to examine our lives today, we may notice our family has had a powerful impact on who we have become.
 - What can you do to make a positive spiritual impact on your family? And, have you taken the time to say thank you to your family for the positive impact they have had on you?
 - At the same time, if you notice attitudes or behaviors that have been passed on from your family that need correcting, how should you respond? What role does the Holy Spirit and your Christian community play in this process of discernment and correction?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



Take time to examine our attitudes and behaviors, and repent where needed. But, let's also make sure we take time to dwell on God's love and do our best to imitate Him!

PRACTICAL APPLICATION & READING REFLECTIONS

Sunday: Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 26:1-11 (Abraham's Deception Repeated by Isaac)
Monday: Gen. 27:1-45; 37:12-36 (Jacob Deceives his Father, Gets Deceived by Sons)
Tuesday: 2 Sam. 11:1-27; 1 Kings 11:1-8 (Solomon Increasing David's Sins)
Wednesday: 2 Kings 21:10-26; 2 Chr. 33:1-25 (Amon Repeating Manasseh's Sins)
Thursday: John 1:9-14; Rom. 8:12-17 (Becoming a child of God)
Friday: Hosea 1:10; Gal. 4:1-7 (New Fatherhood)
Saturday: Mark 10:13-16; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 John 2:26-3:10 (Living Out Childhood)

