

Genesis 5:28-6:5 – Even the Godly can Be Corrupted

Henry, Calvin, TSK, JFB, Poole, Gill, Armstrong, Delitzsch, Whyttock, Handfuls, Geneva, Gaebelien, Trapp, Poole, Barnes, Eclectic, Gray, Clarke
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Why do so many Christian young people go off to university and lose their way?**

They were all **on fire for the Lord**, they prayed, they **read their Bibles**, they **attended worship regularly**, and they **talked to others about Christ**.

But then they go off to university and **slowly (or quickly) stop worshipping**, their **Bible reading falls off**, they **don't pray as they used to**, and they **stop talking about their faith**.

They then **develop relationships** with **those who don't know Jesus**.

They **marry (or maybe not), have kids, and raise those kids in their new way of life**.

The truth is, this has happened before, right from the creation of the world.

How do we fix this? As we see another baptism today and look at the future, this is a good topic on which we can reflect.

Our headings are:

Godly Descendants had comfort in Christ

Godly Descendants who had comfort in Christ were still corrupted

Our goals are: That you will **see the tools the Devil uses to deceive covenant children and how you can protect them from him.**

Godly descendants had comfort in Christ

5:28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son.
29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "**This one will comfort us concerning our work** and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed." 30 After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. 31 So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died. 32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

1. The 1st Lamech, a descendant of Cain, was a wretched, sinful man, and his family followed his wickedness, but Seth's descendants looked to Christ who would come to be the true sacrifice for sins and bring them salvation.

Who were Seth's descendants: **Enoch**, father of Methuselah, **Methuselah**, father of Lamech, and **Lamech**, father of **Noah**. What godliness was found in Seth's family!

Hebrews 11:5 By **faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death**, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 **But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

The writer of Hebrews **confirmed men like Enoch had faith in Jesus Christ**, in the same one in whom Moses trusted.

Hebrews 11: 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 **esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt...**

2. **Lamech showed his faith in the naming of his child, showing the faith of his father and grandfather.**

Lamech had a view to the promise of Genesis 3, and he was speaking prophetically by the Spirit of God.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

He named his son Noah – meaning “comfort.” Lamech expected Noah to be the one who could remove the curse that God had put on Adam and Eve and be that perfect sacrifice for sins.

Lamech expected Noah to comfort them from sin.

He did not name with the hope of a more comfortable material life.

3. **Noah was not the Messiah, of course, but he was a savior of sorts who preserved man from extinction!**

He delivered the godly out of the mess the world was in!

He restored what was missing: Sacrifices, after coming out from the ark. Man needed to picture Christ's sacrifice!

4. More, godly men would come from the line of Noah's son, Shem, the father of Israel.

5. Lessons:

a. The best hope of having godly children is to raise them in a godly line.

b. Nothing is better for a family than a faithful father who teaches his children well.

c. You must have the same confidence of Lamech, that God will redeem your children and his elected ones through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

You show that confidence by having them baptized and training them in the Gospel promise.

There is generational curse, but there is generational blessing!

d. Godliness is not first determined by moral living, but by faith in God's gospel promises in Christ.

Godly Descendants who had Comfort in Christ were still Corrupted

6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

1. As the nations multiplied, many from the godly line started to pursue mixed marriages and polygamous marriages.

Why this did happen? Family, church, and state must all be united under God.

When any one of these is corrupted, the other two follow.

2. We know there were mixed marriages because "the sons of God married the daughters of men."

Who were these "sons of God" and "daughters of men?"

"Sons of God" were those who believed in God—those from Seth's line. Examples:

Hosea 1:10 "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

"Daughters of men" is set in contrast to "sons of God."

They represented children of those who chose the worldly life- who refused God's directions and promises, and made up their own gods. **Not strange!**

Deuteronomy 32: 5 "They have corrupted themselves; **They are not His children**, Because of their blemish: A **perverse and crooked generation**.

These mixed marriages are clearly forbidden in the Scriptures.

2Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?

But the children of **the godly showed ingratitude to God by mingling and marrying the ungodly line.**

3. The phrase "sons of God" could never mean marriages between women and angels. Why not?

Jesus said angels don't marry because they are neither male nor female. Angels only took on male bodies to work.

Also **angels were not destroyed 120 years later when the flood came** – as God threatened to do to the "sons of God." Angels are spiritual beings.

Fallen angels are not called "angels," but demons.

4. These "sons of God" – the godly side - also took on polygamous marriages, following Cain's descendants.

These marriages were not fit to raise godly seed for the expanding of God's kingdom for God's glory!

5. Many of these marriages were lust-based marriages—not for godliness and promoting God’s kingdom.

4 There were **giants on the earth** in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the **mighty men** who were of old, **men of renown**. 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6. At the time polygamy and mixed marriages were corrupting God’s people, there were giants on the land.

Were these giants tall men with big muscles – 25-foot tall men – like in Jack and the Beanstalk?

“Giant” means many things in the Bible: soldiers, (gibbor) warriors, or tyrants.
They’re never tall ogres.

Numbers 13:32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 "There we saw the giants (**the descendants of Anak came from the giants**)...

So in our passage, “giant” refers to those who “fought and conquered others.”

They were “fallers upon men.” They were mighty men.

But these giants were also known as men of wickedness.

7. It is likely the “sons of God” and the “daughters of men” produced many of these warrior giants.

Instead of fighting for God’s glory, these children were fighting for their own honor.

Their **pursuit of their own great name** (men of renown) **ruined their good name** (sons of God).

8. Lessons:

a. Polygamy continues today among Christians!

How? **Serial divorcing is a form of serial polygamy.**

To be improperly divorced (which is not divorce before God) and be married to another is to have many husbands or wives at one time.

b. Go into marriage for the glory of God! Calvin warned: “Marriage is too sacred a thing to allow that men should be induced to it by the lust of the eyes.”

c. Intermarrying with non-believers and serial polygamy since that time has always been one of the best weapons of warfare the Devil has used on people of God to destroy them.

It is a non-violent way to destroy the kingdom of God – from within. Remember Ezra, Nehemiah, and Balaam.

d. It is normal to have children if you are married, or at least try to have children if you are married.

Marriage is not the end, but a means to the end – the glory of God. Forget the pursuit of Your great name.

Pursue the good name...that comes when you fight for the glory of God!

e. “Wickedness is great when great men are wicked.” Pray for your leaders.

f. Would you be pleased if your children grew up to be like you...with your thoughts, your words, and your actions?

This is to Jian, and Shu every parent in this building!

Conclusion:

The godly line was godly as long as God’s people kept their eyes on him and were nourished by the signs and promises of the coming Messiah who would suffer as their blood sacrifice.

But **as soon as they took their nourishment and direction from the Devil, they nourished their souls with lust, physical pleasures, and personal glory.**

They married polygamously and out of faith.

So the next generation of children became increasingly wicked...so wicked that God condemned them all to die in the next 120 years.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Satan knows all kinds of ways to lure you into sin and make you forget the sacrifice of Christ.

He knows all the arguments. He's been using them for thousands of years.

He knows how man is **prone to satisfy his body.**

He knows how man is **prone to attractive things** he sees.

He knows how man likes to **feel powerful.**

2. So don't take for granted the comforts you have in Christ and the comforts he has promised your children.

Teach your children to grab hold of the promises and put their trust in Jesus.

Guard your soul and fill them with the Word of God.

Watch out for the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Finally, if you are outside of God's kingdom you have no reprieve from sin.

You don't have the help of God's Holy Spirit.

But God can adopt you as his son and give you new heart, and new record, and a new life. Ask him.