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My Family Tree Gives Me Splinters

(How to break the bondage of a bad heritage)
(SERIES: They Promised Me Chocolate; 03 of 10)
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“He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.”
(Acts 10:2 NIV)

Why is family stuff so hard?

You can't fix them.

“. . . it is no mere pretense when I say that **I would be willing to be forever damned if that would save you.**" (Rom 9:1-3)

You can't fire them.

"The king covered his face and cried aloud, 'O my son **Absalom!** O **Absalom**, my son, my son!' Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, 'Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. **You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead.**'" (2 Sam 18:33- 19:6)

You can't free yourself from their influence.

“. . . I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand *generations* of those who love me and keep my commandments." (Exo 20:1-6)

Pass the splinters please

We tend to pass on our **habits**.

We tend to pass on our **hang-ups**.

We tend to pass on our **hurts**.

We tend to pass on our **history**.

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Col 3:13 NIV)

Who am I at home?

I will be a healer. (never sour)

“The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.” (Pro 15:4 NIV)

“Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” (Pro 16:24 NIV)

I will be an encourager. (never settle)

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24 NIV)

I will be a bridge-builder. (never stop)

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”
(Psa 133:1)

“Love must be sincere. **Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. **Practice hospitality.**” (Romans 12:9-13 NIV)