

BREAKING THE CYCLE

June 11, 2017 Ephesians 4:22-24 by Bob Branch
A Legacy of Freedom and Blessing, Part 1 of 2

BIG IDEA: Breaking the family cycle of sin and brokenness to give the next generation a solid footing in the future.

Broken people make broken people.

“So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to—the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God’s likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy.”
Ephesians 4:22–24 GNB

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.” **Matthew 7:1-2**

Intentional but INDIRECT.

“IDENTIFY the things we’ve experienced in our families that we don’t want to bring with us.”

To parent well, we must let God REPARENT us.

“I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that *the love you have for me may be in them* and that I myself may be in them.” **John 17:26** (1 John 4:19)

1. We must FORGIVE our parents (and keep forgiving).

“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” **Colossians 3:13**

2. Identify and replace BAD BEHAVIORS with good ones.

“put on the new self” **Colossians 3:10**

3. We cannot do this alone. We need PARTNERS.

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” **Galatians 6:2**

4. When you fail and/or sin, humble yourself, REPENT and apologize.

“go and be reconciled to them” **Matthew 5:24**