

SINS OF FOLLOWING GENERATIONS

I. The sins of the following generations in Malachi's day.

- A. They doubted God's love.
 - 1. They questioned whether or not God really loved them (1:2).
 - 2. God had to reassert His love for Israel.
- B. They dishonored God's name.
 - 1. They did so by offering blemished sacrifices (1:6-11).
 - a. They offered to God what they would have been embarrassed to offer one of their leaders.
 - b. God wished someone would shut the doors so no offerings would be made to Him.
 - 2. They offered half-hearted worship (1:12-14).
 - a. They profaned God's name by saying His worship was wearisome to them.
 - b. Those that continued to worship in such a way would fall under God's curse.
- C. They desecrated God's covenant.
 - 1. They did so by marrying pagan women (2:10-12).
 - a. These women were the daughter's of idol worshiping people.
 - b. Ezra 9-10 and the end of Nehemiah deal with this more thoroughly.
 - c. Notice Malachi's prayer (2:12).
 - 2. They did so by divorcing their Jewish wives (2:13-16).
 - a. Despite their weeping, God ignored their worship.
 - b. They had dealt treacherously with the wives of their youth by divorcing them.
 - (1) This they did even though they had made a covenant with them.
 - (2) Even though God had made them one.
 - 3. Thus, God hated divorce (2:16).
- D. They disparaged God's patience.
 - 1. They wearied God with their words (2:17).
 - 2. They questioned God's justice.
 - a. They were saying those that do evil were good in God's sight and He rewarded them.
 - b. They asked, "Where is the God of justice?"
 - 3. God's answer to their questions was to send His messengers (3:1-5).
 - a. The first messenger would prepare the way.
 - b. The second messenger would purge sin from the people.
- E. They deserted God's ordinances.
 - 1. This was a charge from God (3:7).
 - 2. Their lack of giving was a case in point (3:8-12).
 - a. They had robbed God by failing to give.
 - b. The nation was accursed because of it.

- c. They were challenged to give as they should in order to see the blessings that would follow.
- F. They despised God's service.
 - 1. They said it was vain to serve God (3:13-15).
 - 2. They were harsh towards God, questioning what profit there was in being faithful and saying God dealt differently with sinners.

II. **The sins of following generations today.**

- A. Do we doubt God's love?
 - 1. It is not uncommon for following generations to question the church or even His existence, let alone His love.
 - 2. I received a call the other day from a following generation Christian who claims to have lost his faith.
 - a. Things weren't going his way and Christians had let him down.
 - b. Because of these things, he says he no longer believes in the Bible or that God loves him.
 - 3. Many times the faith of these Christians is not real.
 - a. They ride their parents coat-tails so to speak.
 - b. They don't have the firm conviction they need to stand during the storms of life.
 - 4. Without faith, they won't experience God's love.
 - a. Faith leads to obedience (Romans 1:5; 6:17).
 - b. When we keep God's commandments we experience His love (John 14:21-23).
- B. Do we dishonor God's name?
 - 1. Some do by giving little effort in worship or failing to be a spiritual sacrifice to God.
 - a. Praise is to be offered to God (Hebrews 13:15).
 - b. Yet we tend to give more praise to our favorite team, politician or performer.
 - 2. We can be guilty of giving half-hearted worship.
 - 3. God won't be pleased with blemished sacrifices today.
- C. Do we desecrate His covenant?
 - 1. Many do by taking marriage and divorce lightly.
 - a. Jesus condemned such (Matthew 5:31-32).
 - b. He gave one exception (Matthew 19:9).
 - 2. However, divorce and remarriage for unscriptural reasons has become rampant today.
 - a. It still damages our spouse and children.
 - b. It still damages our relationship to God.
 - 3. When following generations don't have the same level of faith as their parents we shouldn't be surprised by this.
- D. Do we disparage God's patience?
 - 1. We may not outright question the Lord's return but our lives reflect it at times.
 - 2. We can try God's patience and longsuffering by continuing in sin

- and thinking lightly of it.
3. When we live like there is always a tomorrow, following generations give little thought to God's longsuffering and need to repent.
- E. Do we desert God's ordinances?
1. Look where the church is and you can see many have.
 2. Baptism for remission of sins has been left behind, men leading in worship has been left behind.
 3. Giving is not what it once was and neither is assembling with the saints what it once was.
- F. Do we despise God's service?
1. If we aren't seeking the kingdom first, we are a part of the following generations and not the faithful one.
 2. When we question God's word by putting other things first, thinking we will still be blessed we are guilty of despising God's service.
 3. When we trust in ourselves more than God we make ourselves part of the following generation and not the faithful one.

From a sermon by Mark Copeland