DETRIMENTAL PATHS OF UNGODLY FATHERS

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

DETRIMENTAL PATHS OF UNGODLY FATHERS

Key Texts: Acts 7:51-60

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for another day like this, thank You for Your love and favor, we appreciate all You do for us. We pray that as we learn at Your feet You'd teach us because it's only in You the wealth of wisdom, knowledge and understanding is found. In Jesus Christ name we pray. Amen

Study

I welcome you all once again in the name of Jesus Christ this day

Acts 7:50 Hath not my hand made all these things? **51** Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. **52** Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers**:** **53** Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. **54** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. **55** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, **56** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God**.** **57** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, **58** And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. **59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. **60 A**nd he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The scriptures says in **Proverbs 22:28 KJV** Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

This verse is not referring to ungodly patterns, paths, ways, boundaries, landmarks but the one set on genuine holiness and righteousness, a type that follows after what Abraham, Isaac and Jacob laid. That's the kind of landmark we are talking about here, a path worthy to be followed. Brethren, but there are paths we must not follow even though our fathers followed it, we should not be like them. That's why we pray most times that the power of like father like son operating in our lives should stop. That's why I pray for someone reading this that the ungodly paths your fathers followed that destroyed them will not be your portion in Jesus' name.

In this chapter we read of Stephen's trial, how he made his defence before the high priest and gave a vivid account of Israel's journey right from the time of Abraham to the time of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. From this we observe Stephen as a studier of the scriptures, though not a Levite not a priest, but he was able to give an accurate account of the scriptures. He was an Hellenist (Greek-speaking Jew) and in terms of character he was indeed a Christian. He was a man full of faith and The Holy Spirit**. Acts 6:5 KJV** And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose STEPHEN, A MAN FULL OF FAITH AND OF THE HOLY GHOST, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

He was of an enthusiastic faith and of deep spirituality, he preached the words of Christ without fear or favour and in **Acts 7:51 KJV** He said Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Stephen used some words to qualify and describe the audience he was speaking to, saying that was how their fathers walked. He said:

1. **You Stiff-necked**: That is, they are stubborn, bull headed, unbending, and unyielding to The Holy Spirit. By saying these set of people are stiff-necked people, Stephen was making them remember the kind of life their fathers lived. **Exodus 32:9 KJV** And the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: And they are following the paths of their fathers. These set of people who have the laws and can easily get the account of Christ's coming did not seek the knowledge, but they decided to remain stubborn and unyielding, therefore, they would not allow God to reclaim and reform them just like their fathers they were inflexible both to The Word of God and to His

care and guidance. They would not submit themselves to the sweet and easy yoke of God's government nor draw in it, they will not humble themselves before Him**.** **Exodus 33:3 KJV** Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

This is the same way we have stiff-necked people today who no matter what they hear will not change, they are stubborn and unyielding to the truth, they will never accept the truth because they do not want to change, they prefer to hold the truth in unrighteousness. **Romans 1:18 KJV** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; There are many errors that these set of people hold onto and would not obey the scriptures because it was what their fathers did too. Example of such is

1**. Polygamy/Polyandry**: They try as much as possible to cut corners around this biblical truth that a man should have only one wife and not more, they give several justification for their sinfulness. The scriptures says in **Genesis 2:24 KJV** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And The Lord Jesus Christ when he was teaching His disciples said that God created us male and female. **Mark 10:6 KJV** But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. The scripture says (a man) and shall cleave to (his wife) not "men" shall cleave to their wife (singular) not "man" shall cleave to his wives (plural) but shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh. (Both are singular) **1 Corinthians 6:16 KJV** What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. In this verse, Apostle Paul was speaking to the Corinthians on the need for sexual purity and he referring to the Old testament said for "two" saith He (saith who?) "God", shall be one flesh how many shall become one flesh? (Two) and that was what God said.

From the beginning of creation God made them male and female God did not create more than one woman for Adam, He took one rib from Adam and not ribs to create a woman for him. **Genesis 2:21-22 KJV** And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; **[22]** And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. A man claiming that he

can have more than one wife is simply claiming that God removed more than one rib from Adam and created women from it, but it is not true it was simply a rib that God used to form a woman then in the next verse **Genesis 2:23 KJV** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. The reason why polygamous marriages always experience turbulence is simply because more than one bones are trying to fit into a space meant for a single bone. So they become hurtful to the man and he becomes uncomfortable. More than one rib wants to get itself fitted into the space meant for a single rib, then they begin to pinch inwardly and pierce the skins so much.

But because many are stiff-necked they don't want correction they then pick verses like **1 Timothy 3:2 KJV** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; saying it is only those who desire to be bishops that should marry only one wife but others can go ahead to marry more. **1 Timothy 3:12 KJV** Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. This verses of the scriptures are only restrictive scriptures not that of approval, in the sense that. God placed a restriction that those who would not stick to one wife should not lead His people. Not that He approved it that others can have more than one wife(wives) if they want. How did we come about this truth? Follow carefully please.

Going back to **verse 2,** if it is only bishops and Deacons that need to marry only one wife then they should also be the only ones required to live blameless, vigilant (temperate), sober-minded lives and also be of good behaviour, given to hospitality, and able to teach**. 1 Timothy 3:3 KJV** Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; This also means that others can be given to wine and become drunkards, can be violent, greedy for money, impatient, they can quarrel or fight noisily, and also be covetous, they don't need to rule their houses as well and their children can live anyhow too. All these things are expected of every true child of God, therefore it applies to all. If we are all meant to live according to all that has been mentioned here then it is expected that we all live according to the command of one man, one woman too, except we are saying it's not necessary to live as stated there. The Jews did not

change, despite the truth of God's Word they listened to, they still turned their ears away and remained stubborn and unyielding because their fathers did the same thing. Are you not also following the ungodly paths of your fathers?

Another ungodly paths of their fathers that people follow today is.

Drinking of strong/hard drinks: This is another area many remain stiff-necked like their fathers, never will they yield to any message that prohibits them from drinking because they have already memorized the scriptures that justifies their acts to their own utter destruction, the scripture says in **Proverbs 20:1 KJV** Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Wine is a mocker! To mock is to treat with contempt or ridicule. Wine can, having any percent of alcohol in it can ridicule you. Strong drink is raging that is it causes great pain or distress. And it then says whoever is deceived by it is not wise, in other words, the person is foolish, can a foolish man make heaven? may we not be foolish in Jesus' name. **Isaiah 28:7 KJV** But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. It's simply said that they entered into error through wine and through strong drink they go out of the way. That is, through strong drink they're out of the way of holiness and righteousness, out of the way of the fear of The Lord, out of the way of sanctification, out of the way of consecration, out of the way of genuine repentance, out of the way of purity, out of the way of Truth, out of the way of life! May you not move out of the Way in Jesus Christ name.

The adverse effects of strong drinks is so bad that it makes the prophets even to see wrong visions and it made those in charge of Justice to pervert it. Setting offenders free and punishing the innocent. Some justifies themselves saying but Jesus turned water to wine but the question is, was it strong wine, or that which has any percent of alcohol in it?. If it was a strong wine, then the scriptures wouldn't have spoken negatively of it, because The Lord will not act against His word. The pure truth remains that no one takes strong wine and will not get drunken someday. **Romans 13:13 KJV** Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. We are told not to get drunk and if you are not going to get drunk then

you must do away with strong drinks or wines that are alcoholic no matter the percentage of alcohol in it.

As a Christian who drinks, brethren should not even keep company with you not to talk of eating with you. **1 Corinthians 5:11 KJV** But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a **drunkard,** or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. If it is up to this level of you not even associating with such a person then it means God detests it so much**. 1 Timothy 5:23 KJV** Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities. Here, Paul told Timothy to take little wine for his stomach sake if it is strong wine that can get one drunken, Paul wouldn't have told Timothy that, because he was the one that told the Corinthian church not to have anything to do with a drunken brother. Any drink that has any percent of alcohol is a sin before God we must not remain stiff-necked so as not to die in it for it would be too late by then.

Stephen called these people

1. You stiff-necked

2. Uncircumcised in heart

3. Uncircumcised In Ears: This simply means that their ears were unclean and itchy, they hate to hear the truth, an uncircumcised ear would always tingle whenever it hears words of correction, rebuke and instruction. It will not want to listen because it will not yield to, no matter what is said. Therefore, _uncircumcised ears leads to rebellion._ In other words these people since they were uncircumcised in the ears, their ears were not devoted nor given up to God. As the body of the people were in profession by the sign of circumcision given to Abraham, so there was no difference between them and the unbelievers for they pay no difference to the authority of God than the unbelievers. (Is this understood?) For better understanding, God gave the sign of circumcision to the Israelites to differentiate them from unbelievers, but because of their uncircumcised ears their ways of life is no different to that of those who do not know God, yet they were circumcised bodily.

When your ear is uncircumcised then you are under the power of unmodified lust and corruptions which stop your ears to the voice of God and harden your hearts to that which both are most commanding and most affecting. **Colossians 2:11 KJV** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

In the church today not even talking about the world because the world does not even want to hear anything about God, but in the church today many have also uncircumcised ears, they do not want to hear things that would caution them from living Godless lives, the gates of their ears only enjoy things that gives pleasure to their ears. Ears such as this does not delight in collection. It does not want to listen to warnings, and unfortunately such ears eventually leads to destruction. A popular adage in my mother tongue says "Aja to ba ma sonu o ni gbo fere olode" meaning that "A dog that will get lost will turn deaf ears to the whistle of the Hunter" In the same way, many have turned deaf ears to the gospel truth and have made it clear that they have uncircumcised ears.

Let's consider some of how one is able to know that him or her has uncircumcised ears.

1. When you love listening to sugar coated messages which are also called "feel alright preachings": This kind of messages comes in form of motivational speeches, you enjoy listening to them so much that when you hear any other message different from them, you turn your ears away, these are messages that look good, and sound good to the ears but because references are made from The Bible, you begin to ask questions if that is not also The Word of God, and you begin to make comparison of those messages with others saying that one which makes you accepted by God the way you are, the way you came and makes you remain the way you came without any attempt to change is the right one, because they tell you God will not punish you for your sins because He loves you so much that you will make heaven like that. These messages only motivates you to continue living in sin.

These kinds of messages are interesting to the ears of those whose ears are uncircumcised. Messages that only wants to talk about how you can make it here on earth. How you will have Dominion only here on Earth, become relevant and

known here on earth and not known in heaven, if these are the kinds of messages you love so much, the ones that talk so much on spiritual gifts and does not attempt to talk on spiritual fruits which can make you heaven's candidates, then your ears are uncircumcised.

Jeremiah 6:10 KJV To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. Jeremiah asked himself a rhetorical question saying to whom shall he speak and give warning that they might hear. Then he said further that their ears are not circumcised, that is, never brought into covenant with God or consecrated to His service as such they cannot hear or obey. And also that The Word of The Lord has become a reproach and the objects of their scorn; they have no delight in it. The true words of God does not bring delights to an uncircumcised ear because it will be bitter to the ears. The Lord warns Jerusalem and tells her to listen and obey His instructions or else it would be destroyed, those present in the time of Noah would not have been destroyed if they had listened and obeyed the warnings of The Lord.

The people of Nineveh were spared because they listened and yielded to the preachings of the Jonah.

2**. When You Create Arguments Around The Truths of God's Word:** When a preacher preached the truth to you and you argue it, gossip, slander such preacher because it does not go well with you, because of the lust of the eyes, flesh and pride of life still ruling in your life. Beloved, you are not doing yourself any good by remaining that way.

Acts 7:51 KJV Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. This verse further says that they always resist The Holy Spirit just as their fathers did, this simply means that being stiff-necked, uncircumcised in heart, and in the ears only makes one to resist The Holy Spirit, one would not want to only subject himself under Him. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth as such, it is only the truth that He can speak and when true servants of God speaks the truth just like Stephen because they are filled with The Spirit of Truth. **John 14:17 KJV** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the

world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. The Spirit of Truth the world does not know but He dwells with us and in us.

It is only those who are of God and knows Him that can listen to His servants, those who are not of God will not hear them. And by this we know The Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. **1 John 4:6 KJV** We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

More about those who resist The Holy Spirit is that they give themselves off as instruments of persecution to persecute those who stand in the path of Truth just like their fathers. **Acts 7:52 KJV** Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Then in **Acts 7:53 KJV** Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. Stephen told them how they deliberately disobeyed God's laws. Those before them murdered the prophets that prophesied the coming of The Lord Jesus Christ and they betrayed and murdered the just One too. They have always loved to break God's commandments they've received God's laws as it was ordained and set in order and delivered by angels and yet they did not obey it.

When these set of people (the Jews) heard these things that was said by Stephen, they were cut to the heart, so enraged!. They got uneasy because of the truth. They did not want to hear that they were lawbreakers, lawless and sinful just like their fathers, so they got angry**. Acts 7:57 KJV** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, in our world today it's not a new thing to find such people too, they hate it when you tell them to repent from their sins, they hate those who mention their sins to their faces and will cry out in uneasiness in a loud voice, don't judge me! The bible says thou shall not judge! They stop their uncircumcised ears and in one accord they rush at you with words to murder you because they hate the truth and are like their fathers.

We see how the Jews cried out with loud voices and stopped their ears with their hands and then rushed at Stephen at once, they cried with a loud voice because

they were not pleased, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, their uncircumcised heart aggravated their inconvenient shouts, they blocked their uncircumcised ears as if to block it from hearing the truth about their wrongdoings, iniquity, disobedience, and sinfulness, and their actions of running towards Stephen to murder him proved how stiff-necked they were and far from repenting, they did the same thing they did to The Lord Jesus Christ to him.

Do you also hate to hear the truth about not breaking God's laws and then living an unregulated lifestyle? do you also hate the preacher of the truth? How many of them have you stop your ears from listening to? how many have you murdered with your tongue? Today is the day of repentance pray that your heart be circumcised and your ears unto genuine repentance, stop being stiff-necked to avoid sudden destruction, begin to love the truth and obey it, you must not continue in the path of your ungodly fathers. Any tradition that was passed to you by your fathers which is contrary to The Word of God should be forsaken so as not to be like the Jews who followed the wrong paths of their fathers.

I pray that this words will not stand against you on the day of judgement in Jesus Christ name. Amen

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