

## The Weirdest Story In The Bible

### Genesis 6:1-7:

#### **What we don't know:**

Genesis 6:1-4, Jude 1:6-7, Job 1:6, 2:1, 1 Peter 3:18-22, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Who are the sons of God?

Who are the daughters of men?

#### **What we do know:**

Genesis 6:1-7, Matthew 24:36-39, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

The issue was choosing the **ungodly** over the **godly**

The culture was defined by its:

- ✓ **Fallen heroes**
- ✓ **Sexual perversion**
- ✓ **Widespread corruption**
- ✓ **Violent headlines**

God's **grace** was given a **deadline**

#### **The choice we're left with:**

Romans 8:5-17, Psalms 139, John 4:22-24, Galatians 2:20, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Ephesians 4:29-32

- ❶ Follow what is **popular** and cause God **grief and pain**
- ❷ Find God's favor by **obedience** and **walking** with him

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 28, 2012

---

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. The sermon gave us a window into God's response to our sin. What was your response to hearing that God grieves our sin?

2. This week we saw how at times we can get trapped in idolizing ungodly people and not realizing the influence of an ungodly culture. Can you think of any cultural influences you need to be aware of influencing your life?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Chris talked this weekend about walking in Spirit and into truth as we saw in Noah's life. A big part of walking in Spirit and in truth is allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life. But knowing if the Holy Spirit is really working can be confusing at times. What's your response to the Holy Spirit working in your life based on the description given in Romans 8:5-11?

### **Romans 8:5-11**

*Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; [7] the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

*[9] You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. [10] But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

[11] *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. [NIV]*

What guidance does Romans 12:1-2 give for when you're not feeling God's Spirit working in you?

**Romans 12:1-2**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. [NIV]*

How do you think your life would be different if God's Spirit wasn't there?

2. With different backgrounds, upbringings, experiences, successes and failures, all of us will vary in what boundaries we need to set and what situations we need to avoid when it comes to guarding ourselves and our Christian walk. How could the following verses help us strategize how to guard ourselves while also being a positive influence on others?

**1 Corinthians 10:23-24**

*"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. [24] Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. [NIV]*

**2 Timothy 2:22-26**

*Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. [23] Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. [24] And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. [25] Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, [26] and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. [NIV]*

**Romans 14:19-21**

*Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. [20] Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. [21] It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. [NIV]*

How have you seen these verses played out in your own life?

3. One key factor in choosing to walk with God is seeking advice and approval from the right people. As you read 1 Kings 11:42-12:19, why do you think Rehoboam listened to the counsel of the wrong people?

**1 Kings 11:42-12:19**

*Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. [43] Then he rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.*

*[12:1] Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all the Israelites had gone there to make him king. [2] When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt. [3] So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: [4] "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."*

*[5] Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away.*

*[6] Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked.*

*[7] They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants."*

*[8] But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. [9] He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us?'"*

*[10] The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'--tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. [11] My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.' "*

*[12] Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days." [13] The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, [14] he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions." [15] So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the Lord, to fulfill the word the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.*

*[16] When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king:*

*"What share do we have in David,  
what part in Jesse's son?*

*To your tents, O Israel!*

*Look after your own house, O David!"*

*So the Israelites went home. [17] But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.*

*[18] King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem.*

*[19] So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. [NIV]*

None of us plan on ignoring wise counsel like Rehoboam did, but unfortunately it still happens. Can you think of any indicators to help you know if you're open or closed to considering advice and counsel from the right people?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

1. We heard this weekend that some of us walk with God and some of us just visit him on the weekends. What do you see as the next step in your continued pursuit of a godly life?

2. Are there any situations you need to avoid or navigate better to strengthen your walk with God? If so, explain.

---

Prayer Requests:

⇒

⇒

⇒

⇒