

Ultimate Parsha continued...

For example a parent could adopt the practice of talking in shul instead of davening on a regular basis. The child, who attends day school, recognizes that this is a poor choice...but soon takes on this practice. Eventually the grandchild adopts talking in shul as the family practice, because this grandchild sees both parent and grandparent chatting instead of praying. In this way the choice of the grandparent is visited upon his child and grandchild because of the culture of the family--NOT because Hashem is actively punishing the grandchild for the original sin.

In a school these "generations" are much quicker. For example, and in a more positive way, if the senior class demonstrates great leadership in the area of community service, setting the tone for the entire school, then the junior class sees this and emulates the senior class. By the time the sophomores become seniors, the culture of the school has been set as a school that values serving the community. In this way the choices of the senior class benefit the entire school throughout the future "generations" by changing the culture of the school itself!

May we all be cognizant of the choices we make today, and the possible impact on generations to come.

Shabbat Shalom,

Paul S. Oberman

