

COMMANDMENT NUMBER FIVE: HONOR THY PARENTS

Exodus 20:12 Leviticus 20:9 Deuteronomy 5:16 Ephesians 6:1-4

Introduction: The commandments show us that we have relationships in two ways: toward God and toward one another. The first four commandments are concerning our relationship with God and the last six are our relationship with others. This fifth commandment tells us to love our parents. In God's eyes before you can love others, you must love your parents. Of all the people in the world, our parents deserve our love more. Strong families produce strong communities, strong cultures, strong countries and strong civilizations. How is our nation doing? Take a look at our families. So goes our families, so goes our nation.

I. HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER

God doesn't tell soldiers how they should fight or how merchants should conduct their business or how teachers should teach or how preachers should preach but He does tell us how children should treat their parents. The family is a divine institution for God established it. It is the foundation of all human society. When there is not the right relationship between children and their parents things fall apart all over.

1. We honor our parents by giving them the proper respect and reverence.

- "My old man" or "my old lady" are not titles of respect. In countries that we call "heathen" there is the greatest respect for their parents. Our country is too far the other way and in a dangerous trend. We owe an obligation to our parents which we will never be able to pay, even if we devoted our entire lives to making them happy.
- Think of what we owe our parents. Life itself. They brought us into this world, their blood is our blood, their flesh is our flesh. They have loved us every day of our lives and we have been their delight and joy.
- Think of the sacrifices our parents made for us, most of which we will never know about. They went without so that we might have this or that, sometimes needed, sometimes not. They gave up, even sacrificed so that we might have.
- *"And he that smiteth his father or mother, shall be surely put to death...and he that curseth his father or his mother shall surely be put to death..." Exodus 21:15; 17*

2. We honor our parents by obeying them.

- God is God and is absolute authority in all things but He did pass on some authority to parents.
- As a commandment from God we have no more right to disobey our parents than we have to disobey God.
- Take a look at our society today. God's commandment to obey our parents seems to have been changed to "parents obey your children..." Children are taking their parents to court for being the kind of parents God told them to be - parents who correct their children and the children don't like it, so take them to court and have them punished.
- It seems that parents of today who discipline their children are in danger of being taken to court.
- Is there a time when children are excused from obeying their parents? Yes, when to obey their parents would be going against God's will and His Word.

3. We honor our parents by caring for them in their time of need.

- Every generation faces the situation of what to do with their parents when they become old and in some cases, helpless.
 - Old age brings a lot of changes and many of them are undesirable and the children have to deal somehow with their changing parents.
 - God has a word to say in *1 Timothy 5:8, "...But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*
- As children we were often a lot of trouble to our parents but they loved us in spite of our behavior.
 - When our parents grow old and need attention, it is then our turn to tend to their needs as they did ours when we were children.
 - Some prefer to "put their parent or parents" away in a "home" rather than to take personal responsibility for the welfare of their parents. Strange that in most "pagan" and "heathen" countries the children take care of their aging parents by moving them in to live with the rest of the family. Somehow that sounds more "Biblical" than how our country deals with their aging parents.

II. THE PARENTS' PART IN THIS COMMANDMENT

If parents expect to be respected and honored, then they must be worthy of such recognition and honor. We don't fool our children. They know us and if we are not what we ought to be, then it will be very hard for them to give you honor.

1. Parents must live a Godly life.

- What were those qualities in your father and mother which you respected and honored? Sadly, some children didn't have parents with Godly qualities and therefore those parents will never be talked about by their children in admiration of their wonderful, Godly qualities.

2. Parents must lead their children in the ways of the Lord.

- Parents are concerned about their children's health but what about their spiritual health? Quick to take a sick child to the doctor or give a dose of medicine but what about Sunday School, Church services?
- The Bible tells us to *"bring up our children in the nature and admonition of the Lord.."* That does not mean to drop them off at the church and pick them up later but to go with them, take them, stay with them, set the example for them.
- In Biblical days, the things of God were learned at home. The parents taught by example first.
- Parent, how are you influencing your children in the things of the Lord?

III. GOD'S PROMISE FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN WHO OBEY THIS COMMANDMENT

"...That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

1. When Israel got to their promised land God promised them that they could live there forever, but to enjoy that rich heritage of grace it was necessary for them to walk in obedience before God and His representatives and first of those were "parents."
2. If we want our nation to regain it's strength and blessings, then we must have children who honor and obey their parents and parents whose lives are such that their children will be glad to honor and obey them. A nation of God-fearing, parent-honoring, children disciplining people can expect the blessings of God upon it.

CONCLUSION:

1. Have you fallen short of honoring your parents? They were bad parents and didn't deserve honor? God says out of obedience to Him, give honor to your parents anyhow, they brought you into this world and gave you life.
2. Parents, what do your children see in you? Do they see you trying to live Godly lives? Do you correct your children in a Godly manner? Are you the kind of parent God wants you to be?
3. If you could go back and relive something with your parents what would it be?
4. God commands us to honor our parents. As children let us do so. Parents live your lives as God commands and your children will have plenty to give you honor and respected for.

