

The Ten Commandments – Part 5

Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother
(Scripture: Exodus 20: 12)

12“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Introduction: Last week we looked at the interpretation of the 4th commandment, observing Sabbath day. It is so easy to split hair and make it a legalistic doctrine. It is easy to bring joy into your life by the right interpretation of this law or make it a heavy burden upon ourselves through legalistic demands! Instead, we must strive to implement the spirit of the law. The law wants us to: Rest in the Lord/Relax with our family /and be refreshed! Right balance is the way to go. It is possible to become super spiritual and force your family to engage in spiritual activities only or we interact with each other and forget the Lord as our head of the family!

The first four commandments are related to man’s relation with God. But the last 6 Commandments are all about our relationship with others. Today let us look into the fifth commandment. This is the first commandment that carries a promise. If you obey, and honor your parents, your days may be lengthened. At the same time it adds a punishment for the children who become rebellious to their parents.

Children who disobey to be stoned to death. (Exodus 21; 15).

What is meant by honoring your parents? If we understand that part, we will understand the real meaning of this fifth commandment.

Honoring is accepting the person’s word as it is, and obeying their wish one hundred percent. We may not agree with that person, but we still honor to obey their word.

Taking the same principle of honoring, let us examine first if we are really honoring our spouse. Honoring is all about giving exactly what the other person expects! Do we really do that? Often times we say no, and we trash their word!

Honoring is respecting that person, and yielding to their demands. This behavior may appear as though the other person is a door mat, and he or she is complying because of fear. But this is far from the truth. The person complies because he or she wants to honor the other person.

A pastor is honored when the sheep follow his voice. The sheep may disagree sometimes, but yet it follows silently.

We must learn to honor God at all cost. We honor him by revering His Word and obeying His Word. We start honoring Him daily by carrying out His order. His commandment to love everyone is a tough commandment but yet we must strive to honor Him by obeying His Word! There are people who are so nasty, but still for God’s sake we must strive to love that person. It could be our boss, or a coworker, or neighbor, or someone in the church, or it could be our own family member. Yet we must honor and love that person for God’s sake. Forgiveness becomes easy if we have to forgive someone for God’s sake in order to honor God and obey His Word.

Once we understand the real meaning of honoring someone, it becomes easy to obey our parents, and honor them.

To honor our parents means to revere! The word “kaw-bed” in Hebrew means heavy; loaded with honor, usually referred to a deity.

To honor means to respect

To honor means to obey and abide in that person’s commandments.

To honor means to give everything for that person.

To honor means love and cherish that person.

To honor our parents, we must respect them, obey their words, if it is according to the Word of God.

The Father has complete control over his daughter as per Paul.

Paul in **1 Cor. 7:28. 38** So then both he who gives his own virgin *daughter* in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better.

But if the father is against the will of God, the daughter may have to stand up and fight for God’s will in her life.

(A Hindu convert marrying another Christian. Her whole Hindu family opposed that marriage).

To honor our parent’s means we must give ourselves for our parents’ well being

(Pharisees - Korban). Mathew. 15:4-6

We must love and cherish them.

Our parents are not perfect. They may have many flaws. But still we must honor them! Jonathan, David’s soulmate, was very loving to his dad Saul, even though Saul was very wicked toward his best friend David. Noah was not a good example to his children when it came to drinking wine. He became drunk to the point of becoming naked and he lost his senses. His son Ham laughed at him and brought his two brothers to the scene to join him in making fun of his sleeping dad. But the other two sons honored their father. They brought a blanket, walked backward so that they would not see the father’s nakedness, and covered their father’s nakedness!

We must honor our parents in spite of their short comings!

This is one of those great commandments that offer a spectacular promise!

Honor your father and mother that your days may be prolonged.... This promise very well applies to life on earth as well as our life after death. God honors those who honor their parents! Surely goodness and mercy will flow all the days of their lives. (Some scholars interpret as longevity and survival as a nation).

Duties toward honoring our parents comes right next to duties toward God! The penalty for cursing parents is same as the penalty for blaspheming God, which is punishment by death.

Exodus 21:15. He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

The parents are actually representatives of God. We must revere them and honor them!

Conclusion:

Ephesians 6:1-3. 1Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

God is our Father. Are we really honoring Him? If then, I be your father, where is my honor?

Pastors are fathers actually. Elisha calling Elijah "Father!" If pastors are Fathers, where is their honor? The pastors are not to be put on pedestal and worshipped, but they ought to be revered and honored, as we would honor our God and parents.

There are some children who are almost ashamed to own their parents, because they are poor, or in a low situation of life, or they are not good looking!

There was a popular Archbishop, whose name was Tillotson. One day, His father, who was a plain Old man, approached the house where his son resided, and inquired whether "John Tillotson was at home." The servant was indignant seeing an ordinary looking fellow trying to meet the esteemed Archbishop without any kind of prior appointment. But the Archbishop, who was within hearing the voice of his father, came running out, exclaiming, in the presence of his astonished servants, "It is my beloved father!" and falling down on his knees, asked for his blessing.

When our father and mother are gone, that is when we will regret over our many disobedient Acts!

If you learn to honor and revere your parents, you will have no problem revering God even more!

Parents are to be revered, not alone as parents, but as representatives of God Himself!

Parents, it is your duty to raise your children so that they revere you, respect you, and honor you! It is not accomplished through fear, threat, or punishment. It is actually accomplished through lots of love, mutual respect, and teaching the kids through the Word of God, and helping them to see the consequences of their bad judgements.

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