**Command 5 — Honor Your Father And Mother**

June 24, 2018

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 (ESV)

1. What does this command mean?

*Honor* = Heavy. Give parents the weight they deserve in your life. Don’t treat them lightly.

For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him. Leviticus 20:9 (ESV)

“If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives,…Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear. Deuteronomy 21:18-19, 21 (ESV)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 2 Timothy 3:1–2 (ESV)

My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching. Proverbs 6:20 (ESV)

1. Why does God tell children to honor their parents?
   1. Parents deserve honor because of the sacrifices they make.
   2. Parents deserve honor because of their wealth of experience.
   3. Parents deserve honor because it glorifies God.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20 (ESV)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Ephesians 6:1 (ESV)

* 1. Parents deserve honor for our own best interest.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 (ESV)

“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Ephesians 6:2–3 (ESV)

1. This command instructs us to not just honor our parents, but all God-ordained authorities in our life.

The fifth commandment requireth preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals. - Westminster Shorter Catechism A. 64.

See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. 1 Samuel 24:11 (ESV)

And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more… 2 Kings 2:12 (ESV)

* 1. Honor our government leaders.

Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 1 Peter 2:13 (ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Romans 13:1 (ESV)

* 1. Honor our employer and supervisors.

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, Ephesians 6:5 (ESV)

* 1. Honor our church leaders.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

1. What should I do with authority that is hard to honor?

“that I show honor, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and to all who are set in authority over me; that I submit myself with respectful obedience to all their careful instruction and discipline; and that I also bear patiently their failures, since it is God’s will to govern us by their hand — Heidelberg Catechism A. 104.

Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few.” 1 Samuel 14:6 (ESV)

And Saul said, “God do so to me and more also; you shall surely die, Jonathan.” 1 Samuel 14:44 (ESV)

And the men of David said to him, “Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, ‘Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.’ ” Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. 1 Samuel 24:4 (ESV)

He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord’s anointed.” 1 Samuel 24:6 (ESV)

Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him… 1 Samuel 20:32–33 (ESV)

1. How does the command to honor our parents apply over life?
   1. Young Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Ephesians 6:1 (ESV)

* 1. Teenagers
  2. Young Adults
  3. Mature Adults

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV)

1. What should I do if I am not honoring my parents?

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

* 1. Share a childhood memory when you disobeyed your parents. What were the consequences?
  2. How does society encourage children to disrespect their parents? How does society encourage adult children to disrespect their aging parents?
  3. Read Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15. What responsibilities do parents have to help their children to obey the fifth commandment?
  4. What can we learn from David and Jonathan about honoring God-ordained authority that makes poor choices?
  5. Read Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3, Deuteronomy 5:16. God knows we are motivated by rewards. What reward(s) are given to those who humble themselves and honor their parents?
  6. How does our responsibility to obey this command change over time? How has this study changed the way you plan to treat your parents from today until they die?
  7. Read Luke 22:41-42, 2:42-52; John 19:26-27. How did Jesus honor both his heavenly father and his earthly parents? What can we learn from Jesus’ example?
  8. How does honoring imperfect parents reflect the kind of love God has for you? In what ways is God calling you to show greater honor to your parents this week?