

10: Honor Your Parents

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

What is the Command?

The command is simply to honor your parents. To live and speak in a manner that shows honor and respect for your parents.

Honor is to esteem, respect, value.

- Bridge commandment between love God and love your neighbor.
 - **Matthew 22:37-40** Jesus said to him, " *You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.*"³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.³⁹ And *the* second is like it: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
- It is impossible to love God without loving others
 - **1 John 4:20-21** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.
- Loving God by loving others will result in some kind of action
 - **Matthew 25:40** And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me."

The first opportunity we have to love others is honoring our parents.

This is a travelling command. It changes depending on your stage of life. Not the command, but the manifestation of the command.

Honor for children is to obey their parents.

- **Ephesians 6:1-3** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² *"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:* ³ *"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*
- **Proverbs 1:8** My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;
- **Exodus 21:17** "And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.
 - Why so severe? Because dishonoring parents is the first step to the downfall of a society.

Honoring and obeying your parents is honoring to God.

Honor for adults is showing respect for and giving glory to your parents

- **Proverbs 23:22** Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.
- **1 Timothy 5:4** But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

What does this command reveal about God?

Since He is Father, He is worthy of honor

- **Revelation 4:11** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
- **1 Corinthians 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

God loves the family.

- It starts with our perfect Heavenly Father. He is the perfect Father.
- Then with a father and mother.

- **Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*”
- It is a man and wife. No other combination is of God. Changing this creates problems.
- Then Children
 - **Genesis 1:28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- This is God’s plan. Families are the design God created to fill the earth.
 - “A family can survive without a nation, but a nation cannot survive without families.”

Families are under attack by the enemy.

- 1960 – 6 million children in single parent families
- 2020 – 19 million or 25% live in single-parent homes. (7% for the rest of the world).
- 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
- 90% of homeless and runaways are from fatherless homes
- Children from fatherless homes are 68% more likely to use drugs
 - 3x more likely to commit a violent crime and exponentially more likely to be sexually promiscuous.
- 85% of youths in prison are from fatherless homes.
- 300% more likely to have behavioral problems
- 40% of children today are born out of wedlock
- Fatherless daughters have a 92% higher divorce rate, 111% higher rate of teenage pregnancies.
- Millennials are not getting married at the same rate as previous generations because they don’t believe that marriages can last and be happy.
- In 1950 the median age for marriage was 20.5 years old. Now it is 30.1 years old.

Stealing our kids

- Transgenderism, same-sex marriages, abortion are all attacks on the family.

- Teacher of the year – “There’s no such thing as someone else’s child.”
- President Biden: “Our nation’s children are all our children.”
- In totalitarian states, one of the first steps is to reduce power of parents and let the state be in charge of raising the kids.

This is a spiritual attack on families.

But God’s plan is for the family

- **Psalm 68:5-6** A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, *Is God in His holy habitation.* ⁶ God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry *land.*

If this is not what your family looks like, that is OK. God always offers forgiveness and grace in every situation when we repent, turn to Him and agree that His way is the right way.

What does this command reveal about us?

Parents must teach their children to honor them

- If children are to honor their parents, which leads to honoring God, they have to be taught to do so.
- Making your kids honor you is a God given command.
 - As adults we love the concept of earned honor.
 - You will never earn the honor of a toddler. It belongs to you by position.
 - This is called positional honor.
- Parents that do not honor their kids will raise kids that do not honor their parents, and ultimately do not honor God.

The ideal plan:

- Do not marry an unbeliever
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

- A happy marriage is essential
 - **Ephesians 5:21** – submit to one another. Put the other’s needs over the other.
 - **Philippians 2:3-4** *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- Teach your children God’s commands
- **Deuteronomy 6:4-7** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Any deviation from this is not the ideal plan.

- But there is forgiveness and grace if things have gone awry.

We, as adults must still bring honor to our parents.

- At young, you are commanded to obey (unless to sin)
- As an adult, you do not have to obey any longer, however, if you do not honor parents, you cannot honor God

How do we show honor to our parents as adults?

- Listen to them. Actually listen to them.
- Pray for them
- Talk to them
- Be respectful to them
- Be respectful when they are not present
- When needed, take care of them.
 - **1 Timothy 5:8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Leviticus 19:32 "You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.

- People do not become irrelevant just because they are old.

What about bad parents.

- We can honor even if they are bad parents.
- Forgiving parents is honoring.
- Breaking generational curses.
 - If there are things we do not like about our upbringing, it is honoring to break the generational curse. This may also require forgiveness. It may or may not involve talking to your parents about it.
 - Ex – Me and my sister breaking divorce.

Jesus said that to dishonor your parents is to disregard God's commands.

- **Matthew 15:4-6** For God commanded, saying, "*Honor your father and your mother*"; and, '*He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.*'⁵ But you say, "Whoever says to his father or mother, '*Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God*'"—⁶ then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

What are the promises of God?

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

- This command is the key to a prosperous society.
- Again, just as the commands are to set the nation of Israel apart to God as a nation, this promise is for an entire nation or people group.

- This does not guarantee long life as an individual. The reward is a promise to a nation as a collective people. The way to a blessed life is to obey the Lord, and parents to teach children to obey Him.

Honoring parents is the conduit to honoring God. Honoring God is the foundation to a flourishing society.

Today, most Americans know about God, but do not know Him.

We get the benefits of honoring God when we honor our parents:

1 Samuel 2:30 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: "I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

If you want a household that follows after God:

- Teach your children to honor you
- Teach your older children/teens to honor God
- Honor your parents as an example and as obedient to God

GENERATIONAL HEALING

Lord Jesus, reveal to me, through the Holy Spirit, those ways in which I may be living out certain patterns of inherited weakness or sin. (Pause to listen.) Now, Jesus, if there is any predisposition in me to _____ that has come down to me through my generations, I ask you to set me free through your power. By the power of your Spirit and by the Sword of the Spirit, cut me free from that disposition to _____.

For any sins I or my ancestors have committed, I ask your forgiveness, Lord. I ask you to forgive me and all of my ancestors. In the name of Jesus Christ and by his precious blood, set me free, heavenly Father.

Now, Lord Jesus, in place of this weakness, fill me with the power of your Spirit; fill me with your Spirit of _____ (self-control, courage, sobriety, or whatever gift that counteracts the weakness that you have). Lord, I ask you also to cut my children free from any weakness that they may have inherited from me.

Father, in your name we break the chains of divorce, addiction, mental illness, physical illness and any other generational curses from everyone here.

Thank you, Father. We love you, and believe that you show mercy to thousands of generations for those that obey Your voice. Amen.