

# Honor Your Father and Mother

Series: Where Life Flourishes: Engaging the 10 Commandments  
Brad Bailey – July 24, 2016

## Exodus 20:12

*"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."*

We hear in this command that which is both sensitive and central.

Ezekiel 22:7; 2 Timothy 3:1-2

## Why is honoring parents at the core of living well?

1. Honoring our parents roots our lives in a life's larger \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Honoring our parents roots our lives in the \_\_\_\_\_ of life's larger perspective.

Proverbs 1:8-9 (MSG)

*Pay close attention, friend, to what your father tells you; never forget what you learned at your mother's knee. Wear their counsel like flowers in your hair, like rings on your fingers.*

3. Honoring our parents roots our lives in the appropriate \_\_\_\_\_ of our wills.

4. Parents root our lives in life's \_\_\_\_\_.

## How Do We Honor Our Fathers and Mothers?

1. Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 10:35-37; Ephesians 6:1-3

2. Respect their \_\_\_\_\_

*'Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old' - Proverbs 23:22*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ them...and \_\_\_\_\_ what is good.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Patiently

- Disagree \_\_\_\_\_

*"Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father...older women as mothers." -1 Timothy 5:1-2*

- \_\_\_\_\_...rather than \_\_\_\_\_ them

4. Extend grace and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ for their needs.

*"If a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God" - 1 Timothy 5:4*

6. \_\_\_\_\_ them after they are gone

## **Honor Your Father and Mother**

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Intro:

**We are continuing our series... engaging the 10 Commandments... which are the commands or instructions initially given to Moses** for the new nation of Israel... a nation called out by God...through whom ALL people were to be blessed. We are **discovering afresh** how **these 10 instructions lead us into the way in which human life flourishes.**

**G.K. Chesterton** who was deemed one of the most brilliant of thinkers at the early part of the past century... esteemed by JR Tolkien, CS Lewis, and Mahatma Gandhi...said,

**“The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.”**

**God is making room for good things to run wild...in your life.**

**God started by giving four values that have to do with him. God said, "If you want to live the life that I designed you to live...**

1. You've got to put Me first. (“You must not have any other god but me.”)
2. You've got to get rid of any substitutes. (“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind.”)
3. You've got to recognize I cannot be used ... not allowing yourself to vainly think you can bring Me down to your control and use. (“You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God.”)
4. You've got to maintain a regular position of resting in My power and provision... by enjoying the rhythm of Sabbath rest. (“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”)

**We come to the 5<sup>th</sup> of these commands or instructions.**

### **Exodus 20:12 (NIV)**

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

This command **can strike our souls** in so many ways... they may strike you **with both** an “amen” and an “oh no.”

I would venture to say, that **this commandment is literally “close to home” for each of us.**

My children are passing through the teenage years.... and the natural individuating that process... that leaves one wondering what of honor may survive.

As many of you recall, my parents both passed on in recent years...beginning with my mother 3 years ago this week. And I only find that the call to honor them only rises more and more.

If the 10 Commandments are **like a plumb line dropped alongside our lives....** We may all wonder how this falls on us in relationship to those who we have known as mother...and father.

**For some of us...honor may seem to naturally pour out...**because your parents have been **able to live and love in such a healthy manner.** Let that honor flow freely. You are likely the exception. For most lives...there has been some significant hurt and even heartache.

I know that it can bring us before some of the **deepest of longings and losses that we have known.**

**We hear in this command** that which is both **sensitive** and **central.**

**They are sensitive** because they **speak into the personal longings** that family represent.

These words may seem like they are made for somebody else... because the relationship with your mother or father is outside your reach.

We may wonder, **how you obey this Commandment ...**

- If you are from a **broken home?**
- If your parents **abused you?**
- If you and your parents **don't get along?**
- If you **don't even know who your parents are?**
- If your **parents have passed on?**

These are **difficult questions** that reflect very **real concerns** and **personal pain.**

**God knows the pain. Perhaps more than you can imagine. If we hear God's heart...the pain we feel in relationship to our parents...is a reflection of the potential that they represent. The pain points to the potential for such honor. Everyone WANTS a relationship where honor can flow.**

**Because in fact... we are hearing something that is both sensitive...and central.**

**In these words we may hear something hard...precisely because we are hearing something CENTRAL.**

The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God, the next six with our relationship to each other. It is important to note that **when we begin the set of six that deals with our relationship with each other, the first of these deals with relationships within the family.**

**> That puts the family where it belongs, in the center.**

The family is God's idea. It is the foundation for any civilization. Any civilization that has let this foundation crumble has not been able to stand. Strong families, make strong communities, strong communities and make strong countries. If the family is destroyed the nation will fall.

**Curtis Jones said,** "There is a crisis in America as crucial as civil rights, dangerous as bureaucracy, insidious as communism, unpredictable as politics, uncontrollable as inflation. It is the erosion of the home."

**The family is the most formative force in all of life.**

We can see this significance as **God speaks of the consequences.** As many note, this is the only commandment expressed with a **more explicit reference** to the **consequences** God says that honoring fathers and mothers **will lead to living long in the land of promise.** [1]

**> It is essential to living well.**

- **In explaining why the disaster of the exile** had come upon the people of Israel, the **prophet Ezekiel** says that, among other abuses, **'Fathers and mothers are treated with contempt'** (Ezekiel 22:7, NLT).
- **And when the New Testament describes what will mark the end times, we read...**  
**"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents . . ." 2 Timothy 3:1-2**

Those words cause me to pause... it may not describe something entirely unique to our day... but it certainly sounds like a description of not only our traits...but a direction deepening within us.

## Why is honoring parents at the core of living well?

To think about the significance of what God is saying...we may have to shake free of hearing how people have used them. This is a command that **we can hear as a mere command made by human parents.**

**When we are young, we hear this as a parents demand...** just as we're getting feisty...they pull the "Honor your mother and father" commandment out. **And if we become parents** and reach that stage, we hear the back talk and think... *"You'd better stop that or you won't be living long in this land."*

It gets said when we're almost **ready to sell the children** to a group of **traveling gypsies.**

But this command is **not a weapon....** It is God speaking into human life. As noted...the commandments are not arbitrary rules...but reality. They reflect how life is.

We can't presume to understand all that God sees about human life and flourishing...but I think there are **a few truths** that we can understand.

### 1. Honoring our parents roots our lives in a life's larger story.

**In our culture, we too often consider older age as a sign of irrelevancy... reflecting those who have lost what really counts.**

**But the truth is that young lives have little sense of what life is really about. A culture that has become youth-centric loses so much perspective... everything becomes fleeting... identity is shallow.**

**But the Scriptures declare the truth that we should honor our elders...for they represent our roots...they are the connection to the roots we so desperately need.**

**Lion King...young Simba has abandoned his clan...conflicted about his identity...and then he has that moment when he hears the voice of his father..."Remember who you are."**

**That is the power of parents to root us in the larger story...and identity.**

**We can see the power of family running through Jewish history....exiled into cultures that could have consumed their identity...they had something at the center to remind them who they were. When Hitler sought to distinguish a people in the Holocaust... the Jews had an identity that could not be put out. When Passover came it was time to tell the story, even if the family was gathered in a concentration camp and there were no candles to light. There was a story being told from one generation to the next.**

**That is the power of parents to root us in the larger story...and identity.**

## 2. Honoring our parents roots our lives in the wisdom of life's larger perspective.

It's the most common joke of our time... that when we are very young we think our parents know everything...then in our teens we don't think they know anything...and then as we get older we realize that our parents were right about a lot that we thought was stupid.

We realize..."Oh my gosh...I agree with them"...or "I can't believe I just said what my dad always said."

Susan Hill said: "**The moment you have children yourself, you forgive your parents everything.**"

It's the basic wisdom that only a wider perspective can give.

It's not a matter of deciding if they are smarter than you...it's a matter of figuring out that they have a much wider perspective.

So the Book of Proverbs instructs us,

"Pay close attention, friend, to what your father tells you; never forget what you learned at your mother's knee. Wear their counsel like flowers in your hair, like rings on your fingers." - **Proverbs 1:8-9 (MSG)**

This is a prize ! One day you could be the one who is wise beyond their years...navigating with wisdom...doing well.

## 3. Honoring our parents roots our lives in the appropriate submission of our wills.

There is an **appropriate submission in life...** and if we don't discover how to submit to our parents...we will find we are **always fighting our submission to others...**and **ultimately God.**

Show me someone who has never appropriately submitted to their parents authority and oversight...and you will probably see someone who will have a hard time with all authority...including God. This is part of what **can lead us towards destruction in life.**

**We are not the center of the universe.** Everything does **not revolve around our will.** Our **parents have the potential to root us in that reality.**

Similarly, in learning to honor our parents, we learn the reality of dependency..

## 4. Parents root our lives in life's dependency.

When we honor our fathers and mothers...we are **honoring reality**...the reality that we are **dependent creatures**. Our existence begins dependent on parents. When we are born...we are dependent for everything... then through the long middle years of life we may become less dependent...but eventually that dependency rises again...but now as those who may need help from those younger.

> The interesting thing is that we were always the same person...just at different stages.

I suppose God sees the obvious that we seem to miss: **there are not two different kinds of people – young and old...just people....who will be both young and old**. When we are young – we see these very different creatures...and now older...I begin to see kids as very different creatures – kids. There is no young and old...just dependency in different stages.

There is a humility that we have a hard time grasping.

POSSIBLE VIDEO HERE: **What is that? (Τι είναι αυτό;) 2007** from [MovieTeller](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...), found at: <https://vimeo.com/2521215> Adult son frustrated by elderly father's repeated questions is reminded he asked countless questions as a child. [1b]

**Parents have the power to root us in life's dependency...when young we are utterly dependent on them...we don't like it but we are. When they become old, they will have needs that should depend on us. We may not like it...but they are. Such dependency is what defines us.** And when we are try to defy it...we are defying reality. It reflects the even larger dependency we have with God.

We are not God. That is the humanity 101.

So...

## **How Do We Honor Our Fathers and Mothers?**

The command says that we are to “honor” our Father and Mother. **The Hebrew word used here for honor means literally, “To make heavy or weighty.”** In other words **don't take your parents lightly**. It means we are to **give weight or importance to our parents**.

**[Might physically hold up two objects...one light...one heavy]**

Sometimes we speak of certain dignitaries as being “heavyweights.” That's exactly the sense of the Hebrew. It means to treat your parents as VIPs because they carry a heavy weight of authority and influence.

It means we give them weightiness...**influence...preference**. Honor means giving preference. In regards to our parents, we are called to honor our parents by **giving them preference above some other people that may be part of our life**.

How do we give “weight”...value...to our parents? [2]

## 1. Honor God first

We need to hear this calling in the whole context...the very first command...was to honor God above all. We are to honor that **only He is the ultimate center and source of our lives**. So the **call to honor parents is never ultimate honor**...it never usurps that honor.

Jesus spoke both of honoring our parents...and of needing to hate our fathers and mothers in comparison to our commitment to follow him. [3,4]

Consider this hard saying

*"For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me..."* - Matthew 10:35-37 (NIV).

*(I bet you haven't seen that in a Hallmark card.)*

**This call to discipleship** would have been **clearly understood in the first century culture**. It compares to the **Greek philosophical tradition** dating back to Socrates that in the name of a **single-minded devotion to truth**, one would willingly **devalue family loyalties** and concern for one's own life and its needs.

**He is intentionally using the highest of human honors to declare what it means to follow him**. . It is a **bold declaration** of his **identity** and his **deity**... because **only God deserves higher place** of honor than one's father and mother.

The truth is that **the best way to honor your parents is to honor God... and follow Christ into life with God**.

Doing so **will make you a better son or daughter, a better parent and grandparent**. You will have more power to love and bless your parents...and everyone in your life...when you let God's love be the center of your life.

**So Paul... raises this commandment up again as he writes to all going forward in Christ... but he adds the obvious... In Ephesians Paul writes,**

**Ephesians 6:1-3**

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father**



**and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."**

Notice he says... "in the Lord"

Ideally a home is supposed to be **IN THE LORD**. That's the environment, the atmosphere, the climate ...under the love and leadership of Christ.

Such obedience is to flow out of one's life with God...not in contrast or opposition to it. So if any authority...even parents... were leading us to dishonor God...we certainly obey and honor God first. The call to honor parents is not a call to honor any command of a parent...it's not a call to accept abuse or hurt others.

**The truest way to honor our parents is to honor God first.**

## **2. Respect their position**

We are respect **their position as parents** itself. **God isn't asking us to pretend** that they are perfect when they are not, or that they are always right. **But there is a respect for the role** they represent...even if only in a limited way.

**In court**, we address the judge as '**Your Honor**'. That has nothing to do with our attitude to their personality; it simply shows our respect **for a judge's position and authority**.

**We honor hem when we give weight to their position...separate from their performance.**

## **3. Accept them...and affirm what is good.**

As we emerge into adulthood...a child naturally begins to see **their parents are not gods...but humans...and this becomes an opportunity to dismiss them...and but also an opportunity to more truly accept them.**

Depending on the strength of relationship...this may come naturally or take a long time. But it is essential to living well.

**Three ways we can express acceptance and affirmation...**

- **Listen Patiently**

**Our parents need us to slow down and listen to their words of advice. There's so much we can learn from the past generations to avoid the pitfalls and mistakes they've made.**

**However, we can repeat the failures of the past if we don't reflect on the insights of our elders. [5]**

When the now famous basketball star **Shaquille O'Neal** became the first pick in the NBA draft... it was a remarkable moment. He was the top pick and at barely 20-years old he would soon be picked and signing a contract for \$20-30 million.

How did it happen? His credits his father, Army Staff Sargent Phillip O'Neal. Shaq described that draft event. He said "I walked into the hotel and found my father crying. I asked him what was wrong. He said, 'You listened to me. You listened and obeyed. That's all you had to do.'"

The young Shaq then said, "Thank God, I listened to my father. I would have been dead otherwise. He raised me the old-fashioned way. He taught me how to play basketball. He taught me about life." (Chicago Sun-Times, June 24, 1992, p. 93)

- **Disagree respectively**

We will disagree... but we **can disagree respectfully.**

1 Timothy 5:1-2

"Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father...older women as mothers"

There are times you may not agree with your parents. They could be absolutely wrong with their opinions or lifestyle. You show honor by resisting the urge to be disrespectful in your words, actions, thoughts, or manners.

- **Bless...rather than curse them**

**We all have the power to bless and to curse...**and the Scriptures not only speak of such power...they tell us that this is especially important regarding our parents. [6]

We are to speak words that speak life... honor... offer weight to life.

And if there is **any good to bless...** then we should **bless it.**

**"When your mother is old, show her your appreciation." Proverbs 23:22 (TEV)**

**This can be as simple as a phone call, a card, a letter. . . let them know what they mean to you!**

**At the funeral of a father or mother, I've never heard anyone say, "I wish I had spent less**

time telling them that I loved them and appreciated what they did for me.”

#### 4. **Extend grace and forgiveness.**

In every family there will inevitably be different temperaments and personalities. This creates the potential for tension, disagreements and clashes. There will be **disappointments**...and sometimes **deep harm and hurt**.

**Now in any conflict... the significance of resolving hurt is directly related to the weight you place on the relationship.** When someone disappoints you...or hurts you...you will usually unconsciously decide if the relationship matters enough to engage and seek to restore the relationship. If the relationship isn't significant we let it pass by. If it's significant... we can't just live with the hurt... it's going to be something we carry. Honoring our parents by giving weight to the relationship means we will deal with the hurt that we are carrying. You **won't just dismiss them**. To give weight to our parents...means we recognize the significance of their role and **won't just dismiss them**. [7]

**If we don't extend grace and forgiveness ...we will carry judgmental spirit in us...** that will curse not only our parents but many others we love.

Some of us may find little if any hurt that we are carry. Others, may find so much we **can't imagine dealing with it. But we can...**and it often **starts with a humility. As we dare to face our own failures...and our own need for grace... we can begin to find grace for our parents.**

#### 5. **Care for their needs.**

At some point...if our parents reach an older stage in life...they will have needs they cannot fully meet themselves. **It is the role of children to care for their parents.**

Jesus saw how this was being neglected and hidden under religious pretense. In the Gospel of Matthew, (15:4-6) Jesus criticized the Jewish society of His time, challenging their lack of honoring their fathers and mothers. They held to a custom called Corban. Corban was a convoluted practice whereby sons and daughters would dedicate to God their earnings, though they could still use them. These funds could not be used to support their parents. They were sacred by a law that allowed the sons and daughters to declare they had no means to support their mothers and fathers thus protecting the funds. Consequently, the parents were cast upon the welfare system of the time, begging alms and seeking provisions from generous people, while their children lived in wealth and

security. Jesus deemed this culture the worst of all human activities to deny the care of their mother and father, calling for an end to this practice.

The early church saw similar disregard...as some left the care for their parents to others. So Paul writes...

1 Timothy 5:4

“If a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God”

You cannot honor God if you don't care for your parents. God is pleased when you help them take care of their home, provide financial assistance, health care, or look after their daily affairs. Even if they can't express appreciation... God is pleased.

**Is not a matter of devolving our distinct lives (boundaries)...but of being willing to sacrifice what is appropriate.** The question of how to deal with the needs of ageing parents, without compromising our responsibilities to our own immediate families, can take thoughtfulness and discernment. **The New Testament lays down the general principle and each individual or family** will need to weigh up the particular situations their parents face as they get older. There is no doubt that at times we may feel put out, inconvenienced and frustrated. However, honoring our parents is a duty that should continue whether it is easy or hard.

**I have had a few close friends** who have realized that not only did their parents need them...but that the distance and separation between them need to change...so they moved to care for them...or brought them to live with them. And the **one thing they all share in common**...not one of them ever regretted it. In fact...they consider it one of the greatest blessings of their lives.

**You may think...they don't deserve it.** I know some who don't. But at some point we will **have to face that it's not about deserving.** A parent's love for a child is not based on what they have deserved...it's because **they have a role and responsibility.** [8]

> **God's love is extended far beyond what we deserve.**

**We honor** our father and mother when we **embrace our responsibility to provide for their needs** as best we can.

Finally...We honor our father and mother when we...

**6. Remember them after they are gone**

As a parent I know that my **children's honor will not be defined only within this lifetime**, it will be **reflected further into their lives** after I have passed on. So while this command is certainly intending to speak to how we must honor parents during their lifetime, **we can still let honor arise even after they have passed on.** [9]

**A child's relationship is an enduring relationship that lasts long after a parent has passed on. If someone says to me, "You father would be proud of you." It still speaks to something deep within me.**

**I am still my father's son though he is dead and gone. I will always be my mothers' son. That relationship will never change and the burden to honor their names will never be lifted from my shoulders. It is a heavy burden, but a sweet one, and I would never want to be freed from that sacred obligation.**

### **Closing**

As we close... I believe that God is calling each of us...personally..in all the particulars that our parents represent... to honor them... to add weight to who they are.

The very last words of the Old Testament speak of turning "the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers." ([Malachi 4:5-6](#))

I want to invite you to do something today...or this week...

If there is hurt that is not resolved... ask God to heal your heart... and to give you humility and grace.

Take the time to write down some things that you can appreciate about your parents...what they did for you... taught you... sacrificed for you.

If your parents are still living in this world... call them...write them a note.

If they have passed on...remember them.

**Resources:** Murren, Doug. TEN: What God Really Meant by His Commandments (Kindle Location 708). Ampelon Publishing.; Drew upon Darryl Dash fresh summary of the first commandments; Read and may have drawn some piece from many that I read on this topic, including Ray Pritchard.

Resources that might further serve one's own life:

I Do Not Want to Honor My Father (When hurt deeply) -

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/i-do-not-want-to-honor-my-father>

**Notes:**

1. The promise of longevity that accompanies the command (live long) refers to duration as a nation in covenant relationship with God (in the land the LORD your God is giving you) rather than a lengthened lifespan for each obedient individual. Cursing one's parents, tantamount to repudiating their authority, was a capital offense (Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Prov. 20:20).

Hannah, J. D. (1985). Exodus. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 140). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

1b. Alternative illustration is Fable of The Trough.

Once upon a time a young couple with a son was forced to take in the husband's aging father. The young wife, being a modern sort, didn't like the idea, but agreed to do it for her husband's sake. She told the old man, "We eat at such-and-such a time. If you want to eat, you'd better be at the table when the meal is served." At first the old man came right on time. But eventually he came late, and to teach him a lesson, the young wife had the old man eat in a corner by himself. More time passed and the old man began having trouble with his food. He couldn't seem to properly handle a knife and fork. After enduring the situation as long as she could, the young wife in exasperation had her husband buy a feeding trough, the kind you use to feed pigs. "Now then," she said, "If you are going to eat like a pig, you're going to have a trough like a pig." Everything seemed to go well for a few weeks until one day when the young couple couldn't find their 4-year old son. Bam, bam, bam came the noise from the shed behind the house. Walking to the door of the shed, they discovered the young boy busily nailing boards together. "What are you doing sweetheart? asked the young wife. "Oh," said the boy, "I'm making a trough for when you grow old."

The moral of the story: Your children will treat you the way you treat your parents.

2. What this honor looks like changes as time goes on in our lives. In the early years, honoring your parents is expressed mainly through being obedient to their rules. As one becomes a teenager this need for obedience continues but is augmented by learning to show respect to your parent in your attitude. Even as adults we are to continue to show respect by listening to our parent's advice and by caring for their welfare.

3. J. John describes the tension that Jesus brings to the role of family.

Although the Bible affirms parenthood from beginning to end, there is also something else going on. Jesus, in fact, offers a number of cautions about families. One of the sternest passages is to be found in Matthew 10:34–37 (NIV): Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. This is not an isolated passage; see, for instance, Matthew 12:46–50, Luke 12:51–53 or 14:26–27. Jesus seems to be warning that although they are good, family relationships should not be

allowed to take priority over the most important relationship of all: following Christ. There is a profound saying that ‘the good is the enemy of the best’ and this applies very clearly in the area of following Jesus. Jesus goes even further than simply expressing caution about the family. In Mark 3:31–35 (NIV) we read this: Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, ‘Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.’ ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.’ Here we see Jesus not just putting limits on the role of a biological family but setting out the pattern of a replacement family based around himself. Similar views can be found in Mark 10:29–30, Luke 18:29–30 and Matthew 19:29. The rest of the New Testament develops the idea that Jesus’ followers can become an alternative family. When we become believers in Christ, we become the sons and daughters of God (John 1:12–13). As such, we enter into a new relationship with God in heaven and can now see him as our heavenly Father. - John, J.. just10 (Kindle Locations 3036-3040). Philo Trust. Kindle Edition.

4. One of the best ways to understand an appropriate honor of parents, it to look at the example of Jesus. As a child, at the age of twelve...the point at which a Jewish child transitioned to adulthood...he declared his commitment to His Father’s house...even while obeying his parents. Every year, Jesus accompanied His parents to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. After the Feast, Joseph and Mary left to return home by caravan. After a day’s journey, His parents realized Jesus was missing. It might seem that Jesus did not honor His parents’ wishes that He remain with the caravan. Yet we know Jesus never sinned. Even His rebuke towards His mother was gentle and respectful. Jesus clearly made the distinction between His relationship with His Heavenly Father and His earthly parents. Yet Jesus “*went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient [giving honor] to them*”...even though He was committed to being in His Father’s house ([Luke 2:43-51](#)).

One of Jesus’ last acts upon the cross was done in fulfillment of our Lord’s obligation to honor His mother. As the oldest son, the care of His mother was His responsibility. Apparently Mary was widowed, therefore, Jesus released her to the disciple “whom He loved” to be part of his household ([John 19:25-27](#)).

5. The Scriptures exhort us to the wisdom of listening to our parents....

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 6:20

My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

And there is the general instruction...

*“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” - James 1:19.*

6. Regarding the cursing of parents, God gives warnings...

Proverbs 20:20

If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.

Exodus 21:17 (NIV)

"Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.

Leviticus 20:9 (NIV)

"If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head.

Matthew 15:4 (NIV)

For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

7. Regarding forgiving, Ray Pritchard notes:

“Psychologists have told us for years that we tend to marry people like our parents. Sons tend to marry women like their mothers; daughters tend to marry men like their fathers. Often we think we’re marrying the opposite of our parents but how often it turns out in later years that we have “returned home” and recreated our parents’ marriage without realizing what we have done.

Here’s a thought. When we refuse to forgive our parents, we tend to carry that resentment and bitterness over into our own marriage. And thus are dysfunctional patterns passed down from one generation to another. The very best thing you can do for your own marriage is to forgive your parents for the things they did to hurt you. If you don’t, those mistakes are likely to be repeated and the inner resentment will eat away at you.

Think about it this way. By forgiving, you cut yourself free from the past. When you refuse to forgive, your parents win twice—once in the past when they hurt you and once in the present by your refusal to forgive. By refusing to forgive, you are still allowing your parents to control your life in a negative way.

Forgiveness sets us free to build a new life and to establish a healthy marriage.”

8. 1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV). *"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*

9. “Honoring one's parents, that is, keeping their dignity, continues after their deaths . . . by mentioning them prominently in conversations. During the first year of mourning, one should say each time a parent's words are recalled, ‘that is what my father, my teacher said’ and ‘let me be an atonement for him (or her).’ After the first year, a child adds the words ‘may his (or her) memory be a blessing’ each time the parent is mentioned (Shulhan Arukh, Yoreh De'ah 240:9).”



– Amsel, Rabbi Nachum. “How to Show Respect for a Parent–A Jewish View” [online]. Available: [http://www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Relationships/Parents\\_and\\_Children/Childrens\\_Responsibilities\\_to\\_Parents.shtml](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Relationships/Parents_and_Children/Childrens_Responsibilities_to_Parents.shtml) (9/18/12). Cited by Ray Pritchard