

I Brought You Into This World. So, You Better Respect Me!

Scripture: Exodus 20:12

Introduction: The world has certainly left its mark on the lives of its inhabitants. No one has been affected more than the children of our families. This 5th commandment centers in on the family. It's been said that the health of a nation is lived out in the lives of the family. Plato once wrote that, "The saga of a nation is the saga of its families written large." That statement, and this commandment, presents both the problem and the answer for our world.

The problem is our families are broken. The answer is that God centers its answer around honor. Unfortunately, honor is in short supply today. God says that there is an answer.

What is Behind this word honor? What does it mean to honor your father and your mother?

I. The Hebrew word for honor means to give weight, or importance

- a. Ezekiel 22:7 talks about the person who helps to destroy a nation
- b. Even Jesus, who was born perfect, had to learn how to be accountable to imperfect parents – Luke 2:51

II. Another fundamental reason for honor and obedience

- a. Proverbs 23:22 – Our parents are our life-source. We wouldn't be here without them.
- b. When a child rebels against the order of God, they place themselves in a precarious position before God.
- c. They must take this commandment seriously, because they NEED God on their side

III. It is important to honor your parents verbally

- a. Proverbs 30:11-14 tells about the dangers of a generation without honor, and one that does not bless them.
- b. Solomon says that the person who honors their parents, does so verbally.
- c. I Timothy 5:1-3 show about how to honor God with a vertical relationship to your father, and show honor to your siblings; and then (horizontal relationship).
- d. Verse 4 says that children are to "give-back" to their parents, who gave them so much.
- e. Matthew 15:5 - Jesus said to the Pharisee's, "You go to church, but ignore your families, and thus have disregarded your parents."

IV. It's important to honor your parents spiritually

1. Pray for them, listen to them, and forgive them (if they've done wrongly by you).
2. Ephesians 6:1 – With godly honor given to your parents, you are operating under a commandment with promise.
 - a. It will go well with you; and
 - b. You will live a long time on this earth.