

WRITTEN WRITTEN IN STONE IN STONE

Honor My Parents | Written in Stone

Exodus 20:1-2, 12

Discounts→What is the 5th commandment and WHY does it matter?

God has set us free so we can live free. That means we prioritize God in our life so we can filter out whatever does not serve us to serve Him. As image bearers, we represent Him in how we talk & how we spend our time...especially to our kids! Our nuclear and spiritual families are the laboratories for learning to say yes to God. When we choose to honor our parents, we will begin to understand how to honor & revere God in our beliefs and actions.

While 10 Commandments didn't save the Israelites, they did provide a framework to build their new FREE community. They would discover that even though the Law was GOOD, they were still enslaved to sin. The Law reveals we still need Jesus to set us free and live out our lives loving God and loving people.

Exodus 20:1-2, 12: *Then God gave the people all these instructions: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. (Relational-personal God who has rescuED us from slavery to FREEDOM)*

...
12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Honor my father and mother?→We live in an informal culture.→But...this is deeply embedded in us.→Standing O.

- **Honor is cultural.**→Cheek kisses.→Japanese bow.→Hawaiian Leis.→Indian feet touch.→Filipino mano po.→Titles
- **Honor is learned.**→If our kids don't see us honor OUR parents...do we think they will honor us?→Jenn Willkin
- **Honor is rewarded.**→Society rewards obedience with success...& punishes disobedience.
- **Yeah...but my parents were evil ungodly people!**→Context = 1st 3 commandments = vertical / horizontal!
 - **Parents:** BE the top of parents that are WORTHY of honor. Right?!
 - You may have to have boundaries. Seek spiritual guidance on how to honor a dishonorable person.
 - **DEF:** the regard we show our aging parents, not for their performance, but for who God sees them to be.
 - **Is my parent made in the image of God?**
- **Honor is a choice.**→Forgiveness is a choice...& so is honor.→This is easy for me bc my parents were/are Godly.

Without honor, there is no foundation for families.→The regard we show people who are made in God's image.

- **SOCIETY**→Society is the nuclear family (two parents / kids)
 - **The family provides** = Environment for Child Development, Economic Stability, Emotional Support, Modeling Gender, Crime and Delinquency Prevention, Well-being, & Long-Term Security. = **Foundation for society!**
 - **Kids:** We take care of kids when they are young...& PARENT them into fully functioning humans in our world.
 - **Parents:** ...and they take care of us when we get older.→1 Tim. 5:8→YES...this gets tricky.→Diapers.
- **FAITH**→God established the nuclear family as the laboratory for LEARNING for FAITH→Belief + Action = FAITH!
 - "Your ONLY job as a parent..."→Immediate obedience w/a joyful heart.→Yes mom/dad...God!
 - How will we learn to honor our HEAVENLY AUTHORITY...if we can't even honor our EARTHLY AUTHORITY!?
 - A culture of honoring Jesus by saying YES...grows a culture of faith.→YES GOD.→Mt. 13:53-58

Practical Ways to honor our elders:→Jesus: Replace love w/honor = Love God & people = Honor God & people.

- **VISION:** We HONOR you.→65 = You get a discount, but we won't DISCOUNT YOU!
- **Prayer:** Lord, we honor our elders bc you have created them in your image & they have modeled honoring you.
- **We honor our spiritual parents by picking up the baton AND RUNNING.**→Baton

→We will honor our parents!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. How is the concept of honor expressed in various cultures? How have I seen or experienced this?
2. How are our nuclear and spiritual families "laboratories" for "learning to say yes to God"?
3. Why is honor important in societies and faith development? Why do kids need to see honor modeled?
4. What are a few practical ways to honor my biological and/or spiritual parents/elders this week?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to honor our parents so we can learn what it means to honor you!"

TEACHING NUGGETS:

Why commandments? What is the purpose of the Law?

1. **Revealing God's Holiness:** Exodus 20:7-8 (NLT) - "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
2. **Establishing God's Covenant:** Exodus 34:28 (NLT) - "Moses remained there on the mountain with the Lord forty days and forty nights. In all that time, he ate no bread and drank no water. And the Lord wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments—on the stone tablets."
3. **Guiding Moral and Ethical Behavior:** Exodus 20:12 (NLT) - "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."
4. **Maintaining Social Order:** Exodus 21:23-25 (NLT) - "But if there is further injury, the punishment must match the injury: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot."
5. **Revealing God's Will:** Psalm 119:105 (NLT) - "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
6. **Teaching Love and Compassion:** Leviticus 19:18 (NLT) - "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."
7. **Revealing Humanity's Sinfulness:** Romans 3:20 (NLT) - "For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are."
8. **Pointing to Christ:** Galatians 3:24 (NLT) - "Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith."

Practical Ways to Honor Earthly & Spiritual elders:

1. **Show Respect:** Treat your parents with respect in your words and actions. Use polite language and be considerate of their feelings and opinions.
2. **Listen to Them:** Give them your full attention when they want to talk or share their thoughts and experiences. Listening shows that you value their input.
3. **Express Love and Gratitude:** Regularly tell your parents that you love them and appreciate all they have done for you. Simple expressions of gratitude can go a long way.
4. **Spend Quality Time:** Make an effort to spend quality time with your parents. This could include having regular family dinners, going for walks, or participating in activities they enjoy.
5. **Help Them Out:** Offer assistance with tasks or chores they may find challenging due to age or health. This can be especially meaningful as they get older.
6. **Celebrate Special Occasions:** Mark important milestones in their lives, like birthdays and anniversaries, with special celebrations or gifts.
7. **Seek Their Advice:** Respect their life experience and wisdom by seeking their advice on important matters in your life.
8. **Include Them in Your Life:** Involve them in your life events and activities, such as attending your school events, graduations, or job promotions.
9. **Support Their Interests:** Show interest in their hobbies and activities, and perhaps even participate in them together. This demonstrates your willingness to connect with them on their terms.
10. **Share a Special Memory:** Memories are treasures so share how much your treasured memories mean to you. Even a "negative" memory can bring a smile to a face.
11. **Send Them on a Trip:** Keeps there a National Park or country they've always wanted to go to? Send them! Or better yet...go with them and make more memories.
12. **Take Them Out to Dinner:** Keep
13. **Maintain Open Communication:** Keep them informed about your life and what's happening with you. Open and honest communication fosters trust.
14. **Be Patient and Understanding:** Understand that they may have their quirks and idiosyncrasies, and be patient with them. Remember that they have their own challenges and stresses.
15. **Give Them a Compliment:** Make sure they know when you genuinely appreciate something about the way they've dressed or how they handled themselves in a particular situation.
16. **Care for Their Well-being:** Ensure they are well taken care of in terms of their health, safety, and overall well-being.
17. **Respect Their Independence:** While you should support them, also respect their need for independence and personal space.
18. **Set a Positive Example:** Demonstrate good values and behavior that they can be proud of, as this reflects positively on them.
19. **Forgive and Let Go:** Understand that nobody is perfect, and if there have been conflicts or misunderstandings, be willing to forgive and let go of past grievances.
20. **Share Your Achievements:** Share your accomplishments and successes with them. They'll likely take pride in your achievements.
21. **Visit or Check-In Regularly:** If you live away from your parents, make an effort to visit or check in with them regularly, whether in person or via phone or video calls.
22. **Encourage Them to Pursue Their Dreams:** Just as you pursue your own goals, encourage them to continue pursuing their dreams and passions.
23. **Pray With Them:** Offer to pray for them when you see needs in their lives or they express anxiety about their circumstances. Bless them in your prayer and thank God for them.

24. **Have them Pray for You:** One of the ways i honor elders in my life is by asking them to bless me, pray for me, and speak the words of God over me.

VIDEOS:



QUOTES / SONGS:

- "Approximately **43% of the Bible is made up of narrative**, from historical narrative to parables. Roughly **33% of the Bible is poetry**, including songs, reflective poetry, and the passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets. The remaining **24% of the Bible is prose discourse**, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay." - [The Bible Project](#)
- "Giving your children the gift of relationship with a grandparent unweighted by the baggage of your own childhood can be a way to show honor. Sometimes we honor our parents by demonstrating forgiveness in what we leave unsaid." - [Jenn Wilkin](#)

ARTICLES / BOOKS:

- "**Ten Words to Live By: Delighting in and Doing What God Commands**": by Jen Wilkin
- **Seniors Discount WEBSITE:** <https://www.seniorliving.org/finance/senior-discounts/>
- **Seniors Discount WEBSITE:** <https://www.caringseniorservice.com/blog/senior-discount-guides-where-to-save-money-at-50-to-65>

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **Psalm 1:1** - Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
- **Psalm 1:2** - But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.
- **Psalm 1:3** - 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.
- **Galatians 5:1** - So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.
- **John 10:10** - The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
- **John 14:15** - "If you love me, obey my commandments.
- **Mark 12:29-31** - 29 Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. 30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."
- **Matthew 5:17** - "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.
- **Leviticus 19:32** - "Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged. Fear your God. I am the Lord.
- **1 Timothy 5:1-2** - Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father. Talk to younger men as you would to your own brothers. Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters.
- **1 Timothy 5:8** - **But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.**
- **1 Corinthians 4:15** - For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you.
- **Romans 16:13** - Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me.
- **Romans 13:7** - Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.
- **Ephesians 6:1** - Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.

- **Matthew 13:53-58** - 53 When Jesus had finished telling these stories and illustrations, he left that part of the country. 54 He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, "Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?" 55 Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. 56 All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?" 57 And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, "**A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.**" 58 **And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief.**
- **Exodus 20:1-17** - Then God gave the people all these instructions:
 - 2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.
 - 3 "You must not have any other god but me.
 - 4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.
 - 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. 6 But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.
 - 7 "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.
 - 8 "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 You have six days each week for your ordinary work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.
 - 12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
 - 13 "You must not murder.
 - 14 "You must not commit adultery.
 - 15 "You must not steal.
 - 16 "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.
 - 17 "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

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