

The Ten Commandments – Week 5

Honor Parents

Main Text: 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."

Main Idea

The fifth commandment marks a transition in the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments focus on our relationship with God, while the remaining six focus on our relationships with others. God begins with the family because it is the foundation of every healthy society. Honoring our parents is one of the primary ways we honor God's design and reflect His character to the world.

Key Truths

1. God designed the family to shape us.

The family is God's primary training ground for faith, character, and relationships. Parents have been given the responsibility of teaching and modeling God's truth, and children are called to respond with honor and respect.

Healthy families strengthen the church and society because they reflect God's design.

Supporting Scriptures

- Exodus 20:12
- Deuteronomy 6:6–9
- Leviticus 19:32

2. Honor is rooted in God's design, not our parents' perfection.

The biblical word *honor* means to give weight, value, and respect. Honoring our parents does not mean pretending they were perfect or ignoring genuine hurt. Rather, it

means recognizing the position God has given them and seeking to respond in ways that honor Him.

For children, honor includes obedience. For adults, honor often looks like respect, gratitude, care, and speaking well of our parents while maintaining biblical wisdom and healthy boundaries when necessary.

Supporting Scriptures

- Exodus 20:12
- Acts 5:29

3. The New Testament continues this command.

Jesus affirmed the importance of honoring parents and condemned those who used religious excuses to avoid caring for them. Paul also instructed believers that honoring parents remains an important part of Christian living.

We are not saved by honoring our parents. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. But honoring our parents demonstrates a heart that desires to obey God.

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 15:3–6
- Ephesians 6:1–3
- 1 Timothy 5:1–2

Four Practical Ways to Honor Your Parents

Adapted from Pastor Kevin DeYoung, as shared by Pastor Todd.

1. Say "Yes."

For children still living under their parents' authority, honor begins with obedience.

For adults, obedience changes, but honor remains. Adult children can continue honoring their parents by showing respect, offering help, listening well, and caring for them when possible.

Ask Yourself:

- Is there an area where I have been resisting instead of honoring my parents?

2. Say "Thank You."

Gratitude is one of the clearest expressions of honor.

No parent is perfect, but most have sacrificed far more than we realize. Take time to acknowledge the ways your parents—or those who filled that role—have invested in your life.

Ask Yourself:

- When was the last time I intentionally thanked my parents or someone who helped raise me?

3. Say "I'm Sorry."

Every family experiences conflict because every family is made up of imperfect people.

Honoring our parents includes taking responsibility for our own attitudes and actions. While reconciliation requires both people, we are responsible for pursuing forgiveness and peace whenever possible.

Supporting Scripture

- Romans 12:18

Ask Yourself:

- Is there a conversation, apology, or act of forgiveness God is asking me to pursue?

4. Say "Hello."

Honor often looks like simply staying connected.

As life becomes busy, it is easy to neglect the people who have invested in us. A phone call, visit, meal, or meaningful conversation communicates love and value.

Time is one of the greatest gifts we can give.

Ask Yourself:

- How can I intentionally spend time with my parents or someone who has been a spiritual parent in my life this week?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God began the second half of the Ten Commandments with honoring parents?
2. What does biblical honor look like during childhood? How does it change during adulthood?
3. Why is it important that honoring parents is based on God's command rather than our parents' perfection?
4. Which of Kevin DeYoung's four practical ways of honoring parents challenged you the most? Why?
5. How can someone honor their parents even if their family relationships are strained or difficult?
6. Who has served as a spiritual father or mother in your life? How can you honor them?
7. What is one practical way you will honor your parents or another influential person this week?

This Week's Challenge

Choose one intentional way to honor your parents—or someone who has had a parental influence in your life.

- Say **"Yes"** through willing obedience.
- Say **"Thank You"** by expressing sincere gratitude.
- Say **"I'm Sorry"** by pursuing forgiveness where needed.
- Say **"Hello"** by making time to reconnect.

Ask God to help you cultivate a heart of honor, remembering that honoring others ultimately brings glory to our Heavenly Father.

Memory Verse

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."