

Sermon Text: Exodus 20:12
Title: The First Commandment With A Promise
Opening Reading: Exodus 20:12

Considering the Command:

1. The Definition of Honor: To "make weighty" or to "prize highly."
(See also: Romans 13:1-7; 2 Samuel 23:3)

Application: What does it look like to honor father and mother?

1. Love (Leviticus 19; Matthew 22:39)
2. Obedience (Ephesians 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:1)
3. Provision (1 Timothy 5:4-8; Matthew 15:4)

2. The Prominence of Fathers and Mothers
(See also: Genesis 1:27-28; Ephesians 6:1-4)

Application to Fathers and Mothers:

1. Reflecting the image of God for your children
2. Discipling/Training your children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
3. Setting an example for your children to follow
4. Loving your children

3. The Promise Attached to Obedience: Long life in the land.
(See also: Psalm 19)

Application for those who ask, "What if my parents aren't honorable?"

Four Things to Tell Yourself:

- God has not treated me according to my sins (Psalm 103:8-14)
- Jesus places allegiance to God above allegiance to parents (Matthew 10:37)
- Prayer is powerful and effective (James 5:16, 17)
- It is good to honor that which is good (Romans 13:1-7)

Quotes:

"What are the results of not getting enough love? Disobedience is directly proportional to the shortfall in love.* Discipline for the disobedience, even if administered correctly, is not effective if the child is not loved enough. He thinks, "The last time I got any attention around here was the last time I got spanked." His disobedience becomes his means for getting attention. Therefore your training and teaching is ineffective if you are not giving your child enough love. Sibling rivalry, competition, selfishness, and jealousy are inversely proportional to love toward your children. So when all of the kids are saturated with love, there is little or no rivalry, squabbles, or fights. The more love, the less whining, disobedience, and jealousy, and the less crying and tantrums. Also, the more love, the sooner the child will become a Christian. "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?" (Romans 2:14) God's means for leading us to repentance was to pour on the kindness and show us tolerance and patience even when we were sinners. How much more should we do this for our children." (Jim Wilson, How to Be Free From Bitterness)

"When I was sixteen, my father kicked me out of the house and told me to leave, saying that he would never see me again. I left home. I later became a Christian and married a Christian. Now I am a graduate student. In the meantime I had not seen my father. My parents were on the brink of divorce... When I learned this, I wrote two letters, one to my father and one to my mother. It took me several days to write each one, so they were sent several days apart. For some reason the letters arrived on the same day and both my parents were at home. Seeing that the letters were addressed separately, my mother took her letter to her room and my father took his letter to his room. After reading the letters, they exchanged them and went again to their separate rooms and read. When they came out my father had tears in his eyes and said, 'I'm flying out to Pullman to see my son.' I have seen my father since last summer and my parents' marriage has been saved." (Jim Wilson, How to Be Free From Bitterness).