

RESPECT AUTHORITY **(Exodus 20:12)**

Loving our neighbor starts at home. The first and primary relationship is that of parent and child. This is the first institution. If we do not respect authority at home, we will not respect it anywhere.

I. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

1. The word honor (Hb kaved) means “heavy or weighty”
 - It means to give relational weight, show respect for the position
2. The commandment calls for one to give due weight to their parent’s God-given position and authority.
3. What does this mean for us today?
 - For young children. . .
 - Doing what they are supposed to do with a good attitude.
 - For teenagers. . .
 - Listening to what they have to say especially their warnings about friendships and experimenting with dangers things.
 - For young adults
 - It means listening to their parents counsel on education, career, and marriage.
 - For older adults
 - It means doing what is necessary to take care of them as they age, physically, medically, and emotionally.
4. It is important to deal with a critical questions-- what about ungodly parents? What about when they give ungodly advice or act or treat you ungodly.
 - Eph 6:1 qualifies the issue with “in the Lord”
 - We are required to obey God first-- He is our foremost Father.
 - The honor we owe our parents can never come at the expense of the honor we owe God.
 - We can and must still respect them even if they are disrespectful.
 - But we do not have to heed their counsel if it is not of the Lord
 - Nor do we have to submit to ungodly abuse
 - Nor do we keep or allow them to have the primary relationship in our life if we are married (we leave, cleave, and become one with our spouse).

II. HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

1. Under the rule of categories the fifth commandment has many other applications and extensions
2. When he tells us to respect our parents, he is telling us to respect anyone who has legitimate authority over us.
 - As we discussed earlier the higher responsibility belongs to God—this “in the Lord” must always qualify our respect and/or obedience.
3. There is a reciprocal message here as well for all those in positions of authority.
 - We have a responsibility to exercise that authority in a way pleasing to God.

This is a commandment with promise. Deut 4:1 & Ezek 22:7 help us see the immediate implication. This is not a personal guarantee for so many years of life. This ensures strong families which ensures inter-generational stability and strength of society.