

## **Exodus 20:12 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER**

This week we come to the fifth commandment, which is a turning point in the decalogue. It starts the second table of the ten commandments, which pertains to earthly relationships. The first table of the law pertains to our heavenward relationship, that being God. So far we are commanded that we have no other gods, have no idols, to not take God's name in vain, and to remember the Sabbath. This is the turning point, from loving God to loving our neighbor. This sums up all the law for if we love God and love our neighbor, we fulfill the whole law.

This particular commandment we look at today is very important, for it deals with authority. If one has a problem with authority on this level, the family, one has a problem with submitting to God. Thomas Watson, the Puritan, said, "We can't be good in the first table if we are not good in the second table." If children are taught to obey their parents and respect them, they won't be so apt to murder, steal, lie, commit adultery, etc. The relationships with others will be much better if they first learn at home to respect the parents.

As we look into another commandment, once again, we will continue to see there is much beyond the surface. It means more than what we might at first see. The depth of this law should have meaning to each and everyone of us. This is not just for children, but all of us.

### **1. THE COMMAND**

The principle is very simple to understand. Children are to honor their parents. But in our culture today, this is highly disregarded, even when it is a most basic principle practiced by many cultures in all the world over thousands of years.

This is the starting point for all human relationships. It is foundational. This principle has to be taught by the parents to the children. There was not to be anarchy in the home.

This is a divinely delegated authority. It is so serious, for if one curses others, they are cursing God.

#### **A. DEFINED**

What does the word, honor, mean?

HONOR (Cabad)-to be heavy, worthy, weighty

One is to regard them as worthy, as having a weightedness. One is to have a ton of respect for them. It means to have a right evaluation of the worth.

##### **1. Respect**

Lev 19:3, There is to be an awe and admiration, a fear, a healthy respect. One should tremble and quake at even thinking of not honoring his parents. There has to be a reverence of their authority.

Heb 12:9

I did not want to make my earthly father displeased. If he was

displeased by my actions or lack of respect, I would have to pay. That payment was done with a hickory switch to the backside. We have to pay respect to whom respect is due and whom honor is due. We can't reverence God if we don't respect our parents.

2. Obedience

Eph 6:1

The child is to be under the authority of parents with obedience to them as the agents of the Lord placed over them obeying parents just as if obeying the Lord Himself. It is right to obey parents.

3. Submission

The main point is submission to parent's authority. They are to line up under them.

This is not what is the norm today. My generation is largely responsible for the lack of submission today. My generation was a generation of rebellion and contempt. That has carried right on to the present generation. In the 1970's there was a rebellion against the parents in many ways. There was rebellion in the hair styles, clothing, and music. There were public protests and using of drugs that went rampant in the 70's. It is even worse today because there are guns in schools and mass murders by school age children. There is not obedience and honor of parental authority. The society tells the children that they don't have to believe in obedience to parents. We see where that has gotten us. Childrens Rights advocated by the U.N. has made an impact. Hillary Clinton wrote a book, "It Takes A Village To Raise A Child." That spewed forth a very unbiblical way to raise children. That view says that society is to raise the children.

Richard Farson has been proclaiming that children 12 and under should be making their own decisions such as eating, and sleeping. He teaches an alternative home environment, such as checking out other places for themselves to live. They should seek out their place of education. He does not believe in punishment. Also he believes there should be no sexual restrictions. To sum it all up, he wants to nullify parental authority. This is absolute secular humanism.

4. Heed to advice and direction

There is wisdom and insight that parents have because of experience that can be very helpful. They can save a lot of heartache for the child if the child listens and takes heed.

5. Take care of parents in old age

We are to repay the love when we get old. Paul tells Timothy that The children and the grand children are to take care of the elderly parents

1 Tim 5:8, Matthew 15:4-6

The Cavorkian solution may be in use some day. If children don't take care of the parents, the government will, by getting rid of them. The elderly have wisdom and we so easily blow them off. Christians of all people should be the best at lifting up the elderly.

What do we really know about respect and honor?

## **B. DISPLAYED**

1. Speak kindly
2. Courtesy
3. Listen      Prov 23:22, 6:20, 20:20, 30:17  
Parents don't just let them find out for themselves. There is to be instruction on how sin wants to entice them.

## **2. THE PROMISE**

### **A. GENERAL TRUEISM**

If one doesn't obey the general principle, he won't live long. If one is a rebel he could have a short life span. This is put in a general way. We do know obedient children can still die young and disobedient children can live long but generally a rebellious person can die young. It doesn't mean if you keep this commandment, you are guaranteed a long life. Nor does it mean if you don't keep this commandment your life would be cut short. It does mean the rebel puts himself in danger, when he does reckless driving or riding with friends who are reckless, or doing drugs and alcohol. A rebellious life that has does certain sins can directly effect the length of life.

This covenant is made to national Israel. There is certainly a document of covenant language here. In Israel, children faced the death penalty. They were to be stoned if there was excess disobedience, not just for minor disobedience but for one who was a juvenile delinquent. The threat of a short life applied to Israelites.

### **B. TO COVENANT ISRAEL**

Exodus 21:17, Lev 20:9

The express application was to the recipients at the time.

This covenant is made to national Israel. There is certainly a document of covenant language here. In Israel, children faced the death penalty. They were to be stoned if there was excess disobedience, not just for minor disobedience but for one who was a juvenile delinquent. The threat of a short life applied to Israelites. They would prosper when they obeyed when they went into the land.

### **C. TO EVERYONE TODAY**

This applies to us today. Everyone on earth today would have an easier life, and their stress decreased.

Eph 6:2-3

## **3. THE APPLICATION**

There is so much more than what appears on the surface. Each commandment is a summary, not details

### **A. THE EXTENSION OF THE COMMAND**

#### **1. School authorities**

Not only at home are children to obey, but also when they would go to school. They were to be obedient to their teachers and administrators.

#### **2. Church authorities**

When they would go to church, they were to apply this command to the elders, deacons, and to other leaders. This was another institution of God.

#### **3. Government authorities**

Yes even in the governmental issues, there is to be honor to the law enforcers, and lawmakers. The implications go beyond family.

#### B. ALL ADULTS

This applies not only to children but all who are under authority. That would mean all of us. We have to pay respect to authorities because they represent God. If we obey them, we honor God.

#### C. PARENTS

Parents are ministers of God.

##### 1. As schoolmasters Deut 6

Parents don't just let the children find out for themselves. There is to be instruction on how sin wants to tempt them. They are to be taught God's Word. They are to be taught. The Bible is for their ears. It is to raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord so they would bring honor to the parents which in turn, brings glory to God.

In Judaism, teaching was primarily the function of the father.

##### 2. As magistrates Prov 23:13-14, Heb 12:7-11

Parents are the dispensers of discipline to their children.

Defiance shows up in a child. This is not an accident. It is premeditated treason against parental authority. It has to be stopped.

##### 3. Not provoking Eph 6:4

#### D. THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Heb 3:5

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Paul, Peter, Lois and Eunice, Augustine, Luther Calvin, Knox. We look back to them and give them honor and respect. We are part of that family.

#### D. SWEEPING IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL

1 Pet 2:17, Rom 13:1-7 All authority comes from God. If you want to be miserable, dishonor authority.

#### E. WHAT GOD THINKS OF REBELLION

God hates rebellion.

1 Sam 15:23 Rebellion is as bad as Satanism and the occult.

It is a Satanic sin.

Rebellion is self-destructive and it starts with dishonoring parents.