

## RESPECT BEGINS AT HOME

June 7, 2009 Sunday pm

Exodus 20:12

<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

### INTRODUCTION

- A. When a teenage son brought home another bad report card he at least revealed some understanding of psychology when he said to his dad, **"What do you think it is dad, heredity or environment?"**
- B. The Ten Commandments fall easily into two divisions.
  - 1. The first four deal with our relationship to God.
  - 2. The last six deal with our relationship with others.
- C. Today we begin to examine the second division, our relationship with others.
  - 1. This is a logical progression because a right relationship with God should result in a right relationship with others.
  - 2. It's interesting to note that when God began to build a Christian community, He didn't begin with a church, school, or government. Instead, He started with a home and a family.
  - 3. Let's consider a few basic questions.

#### I. First, Who is this commandment intended for?

- A. As were all the commandments, it's directed toward adults, not children.
  - 1. It was simply assumed that children would honor their parents.
  - 2. What's not assumed is that adult children would continue to honor their parents. In ancient civilizations, little, if any, respect was ever shown to parents.
    - a. In the Roman Empire, adults over the age of sixty were frequently drowned in the Tiber River when they failed to make a contribution to society.
    - b. Early Eskimos often set elderly parents adrift on an ice flow.
- B. Paul did apply this commandment to children though (Ephesians 6:1-3).
  - <sup>1</sup> **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.** <sup>2</sup> **"Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--** <sup>3</sup> **"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."**
- C. God is saying to these adults that even though the years of obeying their parents may be over, the years of honoring them should never end.

#### II. What does it mean to honor our parents?

- A. The Hebrew word used here is **"Kabed."** It means "honor and glory." It's a word often used with reference to God.
- B. The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, used the Greek word **"timaō."** It means honoring a superior or elder. A paraphrase would be, "You should always value or treasure your parents."
  - 1. This commandment was taken so seriously in the Old Testament that the penalty for failure to honor one's parents was death (Exodus 21:15, 17).
  - 2. This commandment was also taken seriously in the New Testament, although it didn't subscribe to the death penalty. For example...
    - a. Paul, as we have already noted, acknowledged a child's responsibility to honor their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3).
    - b. Dr. James Dobson, popular author, speaker and professor of pediatrics, takes his responsibility as a parent so seriously that since 1971 he fasts every Tuesday for his two children and spends that time praying for them.

- c. Jesus chastised the failure of many of the people in His day to honor their parents (Mark 7:8-13).

<sup>8</sup> **You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."** <sup>9</sup> **And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"** <sup>10</sup> **For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'** <sup>11</sup> **But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God),** <sup>12</sup> **then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother.**

### **III. Why is it important to honor our parents?**

- A. First, if for no other reason, because God commands us to.
- B. Another reason is because God will bless us if we do (Exodus 20:12b).
  - 1. This is a promise to individuals.
  - 2. However, it's also a promise to the community or nation as a recognition that **"as the family goes so goes the country or nation."**
- C. Another reason for honoring parents relates to the community as a whole. It's the understanding that authority is learned at home. If a person doesn't respect the authority of their parents, they usually won't respect the authority of people outside of the home either.
- D. Still another reason is that, to some degree, our concept of God is affected by the image of our parents, especially our fathers. To reject parental authority usually results in a rejection of God's authority.

### **CONCLUSION**

Are you honoring God by honoring your family?