

RESPECT BEGINS AT HOME

June 7, 2009 Sunday pm

Exodus 20:12

¹² "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).
 - ¹ **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.** ² **"Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--** ³ **"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).

⁸ **You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."** ⁹ **And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"** ¹⁰ **For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'** ¹¹ **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),** ¹² **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?