

Family Values Commandment #5

This morning our focus is on the fifth commandment.

Exodus 20:12

Notice: that there is no time limit or age limit on this command.
It simply says, "honor your father and mother."

I. WHAT ABOUT A PARENT UNWORTHY OF HONOR?

Some parents are abusive, manipulative, or neglectful.

Are we supposed to honor dysfunctional or abusive parents?

God is pointing out a principle that we would do well to obey.

II. WE ARE TO HONOR THE POSITION OF PARENTHOOD.

We are to honor the position of parenthood, regardless of the personality behind it.

Learning to respect authority is a critical lesson that must be learned.

Your relationship with your parents is a major factor in your life.

It determines how well you're going to do in life. (career, relationships)

Respect for authority begins at home.

III. HOW AM I TO HONOR MY PARENTS?

At each stage of life this command has different applications.

A. As a child, we honor our parents by OBEYING and RESPECTING them. **Ephesians 6:1-3**

Obey your parents -- do what they say. Do it willfully, pleasantly, and immediately.

Do it immediately, because delayed obedience is disobedience.

If you are dependent upon your parents in any way, the right response is respect and obedience.

Proverbs 19:26 We honor our parents by obedience and by showing them respect.

B. As an adult, I honor my parents by ACCEPTING and APPRECIATING them.

Acceptance does not mean pretending everything is perfect.

It doesn't mean ignoring issues or agreeing with everything.

Ways to accept and appreciate...

1.) Listen to them.

When you're out on your own, you're not bound by their advice,
but you should still listen to them. **Proverbs 23:22**

Listen to your parents. Show them that courtesy. That's part of acceptance.

2.) Forgive them.

It doesn't say, honor your parents if they did a good job of parenting.

It simply says, honor your parents.

3.) Avoid bitterness.

Bitterness is such a self-destructive force.

Maybe your parents failed you completely.

God can take that hurt you feel and turn it around and

bring good out of it if you choose to respond in the right way.

C. You honor your parents when you forgive them for what they did wrong, and you choose to focus on what they did right.

Deuteronomy 26:11b

IV. PARENTS ARE TO LIVE HONORABLY.

But as parents, we have a responsibility to live honorably.

It is easier to honor parents who LIVE HONORABLY.

Ephesians 6:4 Amp *Don't drive your kids nuts!*

Parents, live in such a way that you will be worthy of that honor.

For some of you this has been a difficult message to hear.

You have suffered greatly from things your parents have said or done.

You may even bear the scars today.

Scripture says there is severe judgement for those who would harm a child though things like abuse, neglect, mistreatment, or molestation.

Matthew 18:6, 7 The Message

Parenting is a serious responsibility. It is not to be taken lightly.

V. HOW TO HONOR A LESS THAN HONORABLE PARENT?

a. Acknowledge the hurt.

b. Acknowledge it personally.

c. At some point, if it is possible, talk to your parent(s).

If you can't talk to your parents – (whatever the reason),
share your pain with a Christian friend or counselor.

d. Work toward reconciliation.

I admit, that is sometimes easier said than done.

But please don't sidestep this important command.

Regardless of your circumstance, you have a heavenly Father.

He's perfect and He loves you unconditionally.

He will never leave you and He will never forsake you.

He wants you in His family.

Psalms 27:10 He sees and understands your pain.