

Honoring Our Parents

Text : **Exodus 20: 1-17** (Esp. vs 12)

INTRODUCTION :

A. The Law of Moses was given to Israel, but remains relevant even to us.

1. It was never intended to be a plan of salvation.
 - a. The Law could condemn, but never save.
 - b. Frustration with trying to keep the Law caused men to seek salvation.
2. The Ten Commandments give us insight into the mind of God.
 - a. They express God's values.
 - b. By them we know what is right and wrong in the sight of God.
3. The Law was given for God's special nation.
 - a. It was not given to the world at large.
 - b. However, it provided a standard by which other nations could evaluate their laws.

B. The Ten Commandments are good for all men of all times.

1. They did not establish a new system of values.
2. They codified things that men already accepted as right and true. (**taught by God**)
 - a. Lying, stealing, killing, etc. were condemned from the beginning.
 - b. Other nations based their laws on the same principle as the Law of Moses.
 - ill. - **The Code of Hammurabi** (1750 BC)
3. The Ten Commandments tell men the best way to live together on planet earth.

C. The sections of the Ten Commandments were given in order of importance.

1. The first four tell men how to live before God. (**Man's most important relationship**)
 - a. Love and be faithful to God alone.
 - b. Don't try to make God like His creation; honor Him for who and what He is.
 - c. Give God the proper respect, not using His name flippantly or with disrespect.
 - d. Set aside at least one day each week devoted to your relationship with God.
2. The fifth command teaches man the **next most important relationship** in His life.
 - a. The family is essential to each individual's survival, prosperity and normal life.
 - b. Strong family units are also essential to the survival of a nation and / or a church.
3. The final five teach men to maintain a relationship with other people.

TRANSITION :

Giving the proper respect to one's parents is the foundation upon which the second most important relationship in every person's life is built.

I. Honoring one's parents is essential to man's survival on planet earth.

A. God Himself ties respect for parents to the survival of a nation.

1. **Exod. 20: 12b- that your days may be prolonged in the land.**
2. No nation in history has remained great long after its family structure deteriorated.
 - a. History documents Rome's fall to have been caused by internal decay.
 - 1) The values which make a country strong are taught in the family and handed down.
 - 2) If just one generation does not prepare the next to stand strong, a nation is destroyed.
 - b. Sadly, we haven't learned from history; America is following in the footsteps of Rome.
- *3. **This same principle is also true in the kingdom of God.**
 - a. Every generation is dependant upon the one before it.
 - b. **II Tim. 2: 2**
 - c. Great churches become weak when that which made them great is not passed on.

B. The Apostle Paul ties respect for one's parents to survival on the earth.

1. **Eph. 6: 3- so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.**
2. No one chooses his parents ; at conception God gives each person a spirit.
3. The family is the training ground for life.
 - a. Parents are responsible for giving their children survival skills. (**prepare to stand**)
 - 1) One cannot teach what he does not know.
 - 2) Poverty and wealth both tend to run in families. (**circle of poverty**)
 - 3) The consequences of sin are also passed on from parents to children.
 - b. One's first great test in life is learning to develop a healthy family relationship.
 - 1) It's not always easy or pleasant, but it is essential to normal development.
 - 2) Working through a difficult home-life gives one strength.
 - 3) People who give up on their parents, later give up on others. (**a cause of divorce**)

C. The family is the training ground for succeeding generations.

1. It is where one learns how to relate to God.
2. It is where one learns how to raise his own family. (**training ground for marriage**)
3. It is where one learns how to relate to the world and everyone in it.

II. What does it mean to honor your father and mother.

A. Honor is too often thought of as just obeying one's parents ... It's MUCH more.

B. Definitions :

1. Hebrew : כָּבֵד [*kabad, kabad*] to be heavy, be weighty, be grievous, be hard, be rich, be honorable, be glorious, be burdensome, be honored.
2. Greek : τιμάω [*timao*] **1** to estimate, fix the value. 1A for the value of something belonging to one's self. **2** to honor, to have in honor, to revere, venerate.
3. Thus, honor entails much more than obedience.
 - a. It involves the giving of respect and the holding in high esteem.
 - * **Parents don't have to earn or deserve respect, it is their right by virtue of position. We teach our military they aren't saluting the captain, but the bars on his shoulder.**
 - b. To honor is to give great weight to them, **i.e.**, to place a value of importance on them.

C. People learn the concept of respect for authority from their parents.

1. In the early formative years, the parents are the only authority figures in a child's life.
2. Thus, the child's attitude toward all authority grows out of his parental relationship.
3. Parents and grandparents must teach children respect for parents. (**authority**)
 - a. Each spouse teaches the child to respect the other spouse.
 - b. Grandparents teach children to respect their parents. (**not criticize their parents**)
- * **Children will have many friends in their life, but only one set of parents. Parents need to be parents, not friends.**

III. Honoring one's parents is a fruit of faith, of one's relationship with God.**A. Honor does not always equate with good feelings or even love.**

1. People do not always feel like giving honor.
2. Sometime you may not feel that a person deserves honor.
3. We honor our parents because God wants us to do it, **NOT** because we want to do it.

B. American culture has deviated FAR from the pattern established by God.

1. 1 in 5 Americans will abuse their aged parents. (**Exod 21: 15 .. strikes 17 .. curses**)
2. Eastern cultures respect their parents and care for the aged.
3. Honoring does not imply worshipping one's ancestors.

C. Christians honor their elders and their parents because God wants them to do it.

1. Not because it feels good or is enjoyable.
2. Not because it's the popular thing to do. (**These days honor is not in vogue.**)
3. The Christian honors his parents because he loves and respects God.

Lev. 19: 32- You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the Lord.

IV. There are good reasons why God commanded us to Honor our parents.**A. We have already seen that we honor our parents because it is right.**

1. **Exod. 20: 12-** Honor your father and your mother
2. **Col. 3: 20-** Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.
3. **Eph. 6: 1-** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

B. Your parents will tell you the truth about life.

1. Friends will tell you what you want to hear.
Remember : The young counselors of Rehoboam I Kings 12
2. Parents teach the rudimentary lessons of life.
 - a. How and what to eat.
 - b. Don't play in the street, play with fire, etc.
 - c. They teach us about relationship issues, about integrity and more.*** Parents can't teach what they do not know. Each generation depends on the prior.**
3. The knowledge of God is passed down from generation to generation.
 - a. **READ ... Deut. 6: 4 - 9**
Cf. Gen 18: 19- For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”
 - b. God assigned parents the responsibility of teaching their young about Him.
 - c. Not formal instruction, but make God a part of their daily life. (**Talk about Him.**)
4. There will never be anyone else in your life who more sincerely desires good for you.
 - a. Even when they do not approve of actions, they still love. ... **it's instinctive.**
 - b. The Scriptures refer to such love as “**Natural Affection.**” (**Rom. 1:31, II Tim. 3: 3**)
5. Thus, we must honor our parents because our future depends upon it.

C. We honor our parents because we need structure in our homes and in our lives.

1. Who's in charge?
 - a. Few actually want boundaries, but everyone needs them.
 - b. We all must be trained. (**Training involved the bending of one's will.**)
2. Where two or three are gathered together, we need a chairman.
 - a. Little will be accomplished by a group that has no leader.
 - b. Armies and businesses always put someone in charge. (**Obedience is required.**)

3. Children who grow up without structure fail in life. (**All must work with others.**)
4. Authoritarianism is not good, but authority is from God.

D. We honor our parents because we owe them an enormous debt.

1. They gave us life.
2. They cared for us when we could not care for ourselves.
3. They love us even when we are not loveable.

CONCLUSION :

A. God formed the family unit before anything else on earth.

1. Before government
2. Even before organized religion

B. Strong families are essential for survival on the earth.

1. Children cannot survive outside of a nurturing environment.
2. People instinctively need someone to care about them.
3. Nations fall if their family structure is not kept strong.
4. Congregations fall if their families are not kept strong in the Lord. (**nurture young**)

C. The church is the family of God.

1. It is the environment in which “babes” in Christ are nurtured.
2. It provides protection and mutual support even when we don’t deserve it.

INVITATION :

Are you a part of the family of God ?

He longs to receive you.