

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER

The Fifth Commandment (Exod. 20:12): "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

Restatement in Deuteronomy gives additional reason: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you." (Deut. 5:16)

A. Application to children: "Honor your father and your mother"

1. When young: children are responsible to obey their parents

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Col. 3:20: Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Luke 2:51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

→ obedience and submission of children to their parents is not something just for sinful children!

2. When adults: you no longer have to obey your parents (!) ☺

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Eph. 6:1-3 addressed to different hearers than Eph. 6:4

Ephesians 6:1 Children (*ta tekna*), obey your parents

Eph. 6:4: Parents (*hoi pateres*) - a different group

3. But you still have to honor them, respect them.

Exod 20:12 is not addressed to children only!

→ what are some ways to honor parents in public and private?

→ why is it hard at times?

4. When parents are older: care for them as necessary, and as you are able

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. (1Ti 5:4 ESV)

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an (1Ti 5:8 ESV)

Also: Mark 7:10-13

5. You may someday inherit things from your parents

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous. (Pro 13:22 ESV),

but until that time, their property is not yours:

Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, "That is no transgression," is a companion to a man who destroys. (Pro 28:24 ESV)

6. Broader application of this commandment

a. Honor to God our heavenly Father (Mal. 1:6)

b. Honor, respect to all older people (not as common in our culture as in others)

1 Tim. 5:1-2

Lev. 19:32

c. Honor, submission, to all rightful authority

(family, church, state, employment, other associations)

7. The blessings of obedience to this command

a. Blessings on our present life:
Deut. 5:16 (see above), quoted in Eph. 6:1-3 (see above), Col. 3:20 (see above)

b. Does it mean we will have a long physical life on earth?

There are some differences in emphasis between rewards in OT, NT

Phil 3:20: But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Heb 13:14: For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

c. Should we teach our children that God will bless them if they honor and obey their parents?

8. Reason for this command: imitation of the eternal relationships w/ in the Trinity

a. The Father and Son are eternally equal in deity and attributes and importance, yet eternally different in role and authority: John 3:16 (F sent S); Eph. 1:4 (F chose us in the S); Rom. 8:29 (F predestined us to be like the S)

b. Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of God: Rom 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Heb 1:3

He will forever be subject to God the Father: 1 Cor 15:28: "When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all."

c. Application to our lives:

B. Application to parents: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

1. Discipline

a. Parents, especially fathers, are responsible for having their children under control, respectful, obedient
1 Timothy 3:4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?
(also Titus 1:6)

b. Discipline can take a variety of forms (depending on circumstances and depending on the child) (God disciplines us in various ways)

c. Discipline must never be cruel, but the Bible is clear that it will at times include physical discipline (spanking, or in UK "smacking")

Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. 14 If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. 16 When the wicked increase, transgression increases, but the righteous will look upon their downfall. 17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

also: Heb. 12:5-11

→ discipline in love, following God's pattern (but see Prov 13:24)

→ many times, only a word is necessary:

Proverbs 17:10 A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

d. Some parts of modern culture strongly oppose any physical discipline ("corporal punishment") of children.

Reasons:

(1) Assumption that human beings are essentially good by nature.

Answer: there is evil in the world, and some of it can only be restrained by force. (Prov 22.15, above)

(2) Attempts to undermine all use of authority

(3) Attempts to undermine God's plan for the family

– they do this by portraying only abuses and distortions of biblical standards

2. "Do not provoke your children to anger" (Eph. 6:4)

- a. Overly harsh, overly demanding discipline
- b. No discipline

3. "but bring them up in the ... instruction of the Lord."

a. Teach them about God about his ways

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Prov. 1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

Prov 4:1-15 (much of Proverbs)

b. Must understand your children, their unique gifts, interests

c. Must care for their needs

d. Must show love for them

e. You teach by example as much as by words

compare Titus 2:7: Show yourself in all respects to be a model (*typos*) of good works";

1 Peter 5:3: not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

f. Parenting requires much wisdom from God!

James 1:5-8

g. What if we have made mistakes?

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1Pet 4:8 ESV)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28 ESV)

h. We must transfer the truth down through the generations yet to come

Psalm 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, 3 things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. 5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

All of the class lessons and outlines are posted on the class website <http://www.christianessentialssbc.com>.