

## What Does Honoring Your Father and Mother Look Like?

**Exodus 20:12:** (NASB) *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*



To honor your father and mother is the fifth of the Ten Commandments given to Moses for Israel. Like all of the other Commandments, this is a very old-fashioned and worn-out sounding principle. We all know we should respect our parents to some degree, but are we supposed to let them run our lives? What exactly is entailed in honoring parents? And what if your parents were not good parents? Maybe they were absent, or worse. Does our present age of overwhelming personal freedom and choice override this ancient law? Can honoring your parents in some circumstances be detrimental to them and you? Fortunately, the Bible does put all of this in order. It provides us with sound reasoning and direction so we can enthusiastically fulfill this Commandment!

### Right before the Commandments were given:

**Exodus 20:1-2:** (KJV) *<sup>1</sup>And God spake all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

As we examine the Ten Commandments, we need to remember their application is to an entire nation, as well as to each individual within that nation.

To understand the intended meaning of the Fifth Commandment, we need to look at the previous four.



### THE LESSON: GOD IS SOVEREIGN

**Exodus 20:3:** (KJV) *Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.*

Israel knew of God's sovereignty because He miraculously delivered their nation of millions from slavery. They were not to forget His grace towards them.



### THE LESSON: THE HONOR DUE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IS NEVER TO BE SHARED OR DIMINISHED

**Exodus 20:4:** (KJV) *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

God's sovereignty belongs to God only. **Exodus 20:5,6** go on to show generational consequences for worshipping any other god and generational blessing for staying true to the one God.



### THE LESSON: WE SHOULD NEVER REPRESENT THE HOLINESS OF GOD'S NAME CARELESSLY, FOOLISHLY OR WITH ANY HINT OF IRREVERENCE

**Exodus 20:7:** (KJV) *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.*

We should never represent His name in a light, flippant way.



### THE LESSON:

**WE MUST REGULARLY SET TIME ASIDE TO REVERE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**

Exodus 20:8: (KJV) *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

Stop, look up and praise! Exodus 20:9-11 go on to explain the important logistics of celebrating this Sabbath correctly and the fact that God wants us to rest as He did from His creation work.

We are to set time aside to remember His greatness and study His word. Review often what God has done for us and count our many blessings. We need to be reminded over and over again.

Many churches have testimony meetings, where congregants talk about their experiences and relate them to godliness. This is a great Sabbath-type activity because it reminds us to reflect on the Almighty's care for us, which was the purpose of the Sabbath.



*How to thrive in relation to spirituality and to who God is*

The first four Commandments encompass the sanctity that God should hold in our lives. They teach us to reverence Him with everyday thoughts, words and actions, as well as at special times of worship.



### THE LESSON:

**THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHING HOW TO THRIVE AS A PHYSICAL NATION IN RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER**

Exodus 20:12: (KJV) *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

The last six Commandments show us what governs successful interpersonal relationships.



*Guide our relationship with God*



*Guide our relationship with our human family*

The first four Commandments focused on honoring God as the one who established the newly-freed Hebrews as a nation. The next six begin with honoring our parents, who established us as individuals by giving us life and guidance. Remember, our parents gave us the gift of life!



**CONNECTING THE COMMANDMENTS**  
 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT INDIVIDUAL  
 "COMMANDS." ON THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE AN  
 INTEGRATED SERIES OF FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES  
 ON WHICH TO BUILD A GOD-CENTERED,  
 HUMANITY-RESPECTING SOCIETY.

The Ten Commandments are not ten suggestions!

We are only getting started and we already have a higher and better understanding of honoring our parents.

**Is the promise for *thy days to be long in the land* like an incentive or a prize so that we listen and obey?**

This is a good question! If we read this Commandment casually without regard for context or intended meaning we can easily see this in the wrong light. God is NOT dangling a "give Me what I want and I'll give you what you want" incentive here. Instead, He is revealing a foundational secret for a thriving society.

Just as the principle of reverencing God is the spiritual foundation for society, so is the honoring of parents the physical foundation for human societal interaction.

**Notice how both are needed in this model of why honoring our parents is so important:**

**Leviticus 19:1-4:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>2</sup>Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, you shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. <sup>3</sup>Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths; I am the LORD your God. <sup>4</sup>Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods; I am the LORD your God.

Honoring parents is spoken by Moses in the context of the highest spiritual reverence in our lives.



**Reward or reason, 5. Honor Your Father and Mother, PragerU**

- "That your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." Many people read that part of the Fifth Commandment as a reward, but while it may be regarded as a reward, the fact remains that it is a reason. If you build a society in which children honor their parents, your society will long survive. And the corollary is, a society in which children do not honor their parents is doomed to self-destruction. In our time, this connection between honoring parents and maintaining civilization is not widely recognized. On the contrary, many of the best-educated parents do not believe that their children need to show them honor, since honoring implies an authority figure; and that is a status many modern parents reject.*





As parents, we are not our children's friends; we are their guides, teaching them how to be adults.

When Moses was speaking to Israel about preparing to enter the Promised Land, he listed several things that would be *cursed*.

**Let's look at the first two on the list:**

Deuteronomy 27:14-16: (NASB) <sup>14</sup>The Levites shall then answer and say to all the men of Israel with a loud voice, <sup>15</sup>Cursed is the man who makes an idol or a molten image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

This goes back to the core values of the Commandments: spirituality and honoring God.

<sup>16</sup>Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

There were serious consequences for not obeying this Commandment.



**CONNECTING THE COMMANDMENTS**  
THE HONOR DUE TO PARENTS WAS PIVOTAL  
IN SETTING UP AND MAINTAINING  
A GOD-REVERENCING SOCIETY.  
WE MIGHT EVEN SAY IT WAS  
A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY!

God put honoring parents right after honoring Him!

This Commandment was given to Israel who knew God and saw His deliverance. The penalty for not following this Commandment was death. This was both a national command and an individual command. Could disobedience bring national destruction? Yes, their society was bound together in agreement to follow the Commandments.

What does it mean to *honor* your father and mother?

**Honor:** Strongs #3513 *kabad* or *kabed*; to be heavy, i.e. in a bad sense (burdensome, severe, dull) or in a good sense (numerous, rich, honorable); causatively, to make weighty (in the same two senses)

God's presence in our lives should be weighty, immovable. Everything else should work around it.

**Honor in a bad sense:**

Exodus 8:32: (KJV) And Pharaoh **hardened** <3513> his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

The same Hebrew word for honor is here translated as *hardened*. In Exodus 9:12, God hardened/honored Pharaoh's heart, meaning He gave Pharaoh's heart weight in the decision-making process and allowed for his heart to get in the way. The result was multiple plagues until finally the death of the firstborn. God allowed Pharaoh's heart to be front and center - He honored it - and the resulting consequences were costly.



### **Honor in a good sense:**

Proverbs 3:9: (KJV) **Honour** <3513> the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase:



We are to give God the “weight” He deserves, giving Him honor and respect. We are to give Him our *first fruits*, meaning our best and not just what is left over.



**Honor not love, 5. Honor Your Father and Mother, PragerU**

- *And many parents seek to be loved, not honored, by their children. Yet, neither the Ten Commandments nor the Bible elsewhere commands us to love our parents. This is particularly striking given that the Bible commands us to love our neighbor, to love God and to love the stranger. The Bible understands that there will always be individuals who, for whatever reason, do not love a parent, but it does demand that we show honor to our parents, and it makes this demand only with regard to parents. There is no one else who the Bible commands us to honor.*

Here is the word used to describe honoring parents in the New Testament:

**Honor:** Strong's #5091 *timao*; to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere

We are to “prize” our parents; hold them up in a special light.

### **Jesus quotes the Old Testament:**

Matthew 15:4: (NASB) For God said, **honor** <5091> your father and mother, and he who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.

Parents are to be revered.

John 5:23: (NASB) so that all will **honor** <5091> the son even as they **honor** <5091> the Father. He who does not **honor** <5091> the son does not **honor** <5091> the Father who sent him.

God sees Himself in a parental role. He calls for our honor of Him as our heavenly Father.

### **When we have respect for our parents it opens positive doors for all involved:**

Proverbs 23:22-23: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. <sup>23</sup>Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding.

We should value and learn from our parents’ experiences. Wisdom comes with age.



**Check out our CQ Kids video:**  
**WHY SHOULD WE OBEY OUR PARENTS?**  
[christianquestions.com/youtube](http://christianquestions.com/youtube)





**Not only will we be better positioned to be wiser, we will give our parents cause for rejoicing:**

**Proverbs 23:24-25:** (NASB) <sup>24</sup>*The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.* <sup>25</sup>*Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you.*

In other words, make your parents proud!

This means to honor and love God, be a good citizen and contribute to society. Be respectful to family and others, and grow up to be independent, responsible, caring, loving, kind and helpful adults.

## VALUE OF HONORING OUR PARENTS:



- IT HONORS GOD
- WE GAIN WISDOM
- IT GIVES OUR PARENTS A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Be what they would want us to be in every good and godly sense.



## CONNECTING THE COMMANDMENTS

AS CHRISTIANS, IT IS NOT ONLY OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HONOR OUR PARENTS, IT IS A PROFOUND PRIVILEGE AS WELL. GRACIOUSLY FULFILLING THIS COMMANDMENT IS OUTWARDLY LIVING OUR DEVOTION TO GOD!

Living in a parent-honoring way helps us to show our devotion to God. Not only do we contribute to the maintaining of a vibrant society, but we get to show our parents how much they are valued.

**What if your parents are bad or evil?  
Is there ever a time when we should NOT honor them?**

This is a sad and even depressing question to have to ask. The reality is there are parents whose lives are dark and whose influence is destructive. As Christians, we need to be able to face these realities with scriptural principles in hand and spiritual wisdom to guide our hearts. How do we honor them without becoming unrighteous ourselves?

When we “prize” something, we care for it. We are not careless with it, and we are not impatient or half-hearted in its care. Our honor for parents who have been or who are now destructive should be in this same way. This is the principle; we will work out the ways and reasons as we go forward with this podcast.



**Children need it, 5. Honor Your Father and Mother, PragerU**

- *Why does the Ten Commandments believe that society could not survive if this Commandment were widely violated? One reason is that we as children need it. Parents may want to be honored and they should want to be, but children*



*need to honor parents. A father and a mother who were not honored are essentially adult peers of their children. They are not parents.*

It is great to have rapport, and it is great to have a bond with your child. But it is not great to be their peer. Something vital is lost. God has told us this. We can see that there is a lack of respect for parents and authority in the present society, which has torn the fabric of society significantly.



**The focus in this first point is on children:**

Ephesians 6:1-4: (NASB) <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>so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.



If a parent tells their child to steal to support the parent's drug habit, what should they do? When younger, this can be a real challenge. A child does not have the authority to stand up to their parent; they are vulnerable in this situation.

As Christians, we should always look to those who would give godly instruction for help when we are faced with the prospect of evil instruction. In the case of a younger Christian, they may feel trapped. They need to go to someone who is spiritually sound, whom they can trust and ask for help. They should be honest about what is happening and listen to the kind of advice they need.

By looking at only the first part of Ephesians 6:1, *Children, obey your parents* we miss the most important part. The complete thought is *Children, obey your parents in the Lord*. If the parent is ordering the child to do something evil or wrong, the child needs to stop, look around and get help. This Scripture is not telling us that whatever our parents say to do, we must do. If the instruction is evil, destructive or wrong, we need to get some help to get out of this compromising situation.

Even as adults, we may have parents who try to control our lives with a destructive personality. It is the same principle here except we are adults and may not need outside help. We need to stand up for righteousness against the destructive suggestions.





## HONORING A DESTRUCTIVE PARENT DOES NOT MEAN BEING SUBJECT TO THEIR EVIL DESIRES



Peter and others were imprisoned, then released by an angel during the night.

### The next day they were back to preaching:

**Acts 5:27-29:** (NASB) <sup>27</sup>When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, **we must obey God rather than men.**

The principle of this Scripture gives us an order to follow. Godliness and righteousness come before any human instruction whether from high priests or from our parents' misguided desires. The principle is *obey God rather than men.*

Contrary to being subject to evil, we should be strong enough to want the best for such broken parents. To honor them, to "prize" them is to do what is in their best interest according to godly principles. Not according to what they want or say, but according to what is *best* for them.

What if we do not want to take on the problems of our parents? We might say, "It's inconvenient. It will ruin my schedule and the things I want to do. It might cost me a lot of money - if I spend all my time with them my position at work might suffer. I have enough responsibility with my wife and kids. That's enough."

Good point, as we do have other important responsibilities. This situation is not a welcome or easy thing to handle. But what does the Scripture say again? *Honor your father and your mother...* prize them. If they are not appropriate in their path, we still have an obligation to make an effort. If we ignore them and just go about our lives, are we doing what God wants us to do?

If we want them to go in the right direction and do our best to guide them by standing up against their evil inclinations, will they change? Quite possibly not. So? Is that the object, or is the object to do the best we can and leave it in God's hands? Honoring looks different here, but it is still honoring.

## HONORING A DESTRUCTIVE PARENT DOES NOT MEAN HAVING THEM MAINTAIN AUTHORITY OVER YOUR INDEPENDENT LIFE







**This next Scripture applies not only to married life, but also to single, independent lives:**

**Genesis 2:23-24:** (NASB) <sup>23</sup>*The man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. <sup>24</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

**Jesus adds:**

**Matthew 19:6:** (NASB) *so they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate.*



We have made a covenant before God and this needs to be taken care of first and foremost. It is wonderful to have good parental advice, but parents cannot be in the middle of a son or daughter's marriage. There has to be a line drawn where we can kindly tell our parents that

while we appreciate their advice, we will make our own decisions as a couple because of our commitment to each other.

If we carry our parents' authority into our independent lives, we must realize we are likely acting in a way that is contrary to God's will. Ultimately, it is best for us and our parents to *clearly set boundaries* so we can fulfill our personal responsibilities and still honor our parents in an appropriate way. Just because we do not let them meddle in our marriage or single adult life does not mean we do not honor them.



**Do not confuse these difficult circumstances with our own potential willfulness against our parents due to pre-existing prejudice:**

**Mark 7:9-13:** (NASB) <sup>9</sup>*He was also saying to them, you are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, honor your father and your mother; and he who speaks evil of father or mother, is to be put to death; <sup>11</sup>but you say, If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God), <sup>12</sup>you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; <sup>13</sup>thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.*

These scribes were saying to their parents in need: *Sorry, mom and dad, that money is meant for God. I cannot use it to help you.* This is a very serious twisting of service to God.

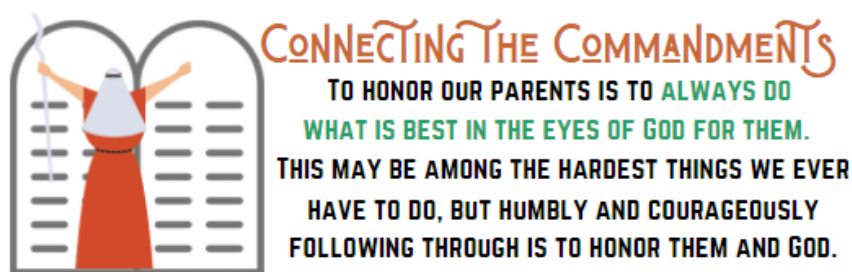
(Source: Eclectic Notes on the Bible) *Corban*: The Law did not give offerings the precedence over moral duties, for it had the Decalogue at its heart. But the inventions of the scribes had so perverted the moral intelligence that it had come to be a recognized thing that to declare any possession "*Corban*" left one free to refuse to use it for the help even of father or mother.

This was a way to be self-serving. The Pharisees were teaching the people that even if it came to the point where their parents were in dire need, the son or daughter could not use money set aside as Corban (they had vowed that it would be used to serve the Lord) to help their parents. Their parents' needs would have to be sacrificed. Some might use this excuse, especially if there was resentment or estrangement in the family. Jesus calls them out on this and tells them that by taking care of their parents they *were* serving God!



By neglecting their parents, they put themselves under condemnation according to the Law.

When it comes to our parents, we must always be on guard against our own potential resentments, judgments and disappointments. We have all heard someone say that their parents were never there for them. But two wrongs do not make a right. We need to think spiritually. Would Jesus have said that? Of course not. We need to put away these resentments and do what needs to be done.



We want to look back in life and say, “I did the best I could do for my parents and have no regrets.” Maybe we were not successful in turning them around to a more righteous life. But God looks at our efforts - not the results - and that is how we are blessed!

We all have different mental and physical strengths, and different financial circumstances, so we need to assess what we CAN do. We are not accountable for what we absolutely cannot do. Maybe other siblings can pick up the slack in areas we cannot handle. When we are doing as much as we think we can do, we can usually add another 3 or 4 percent effort. If we push a little further, a little harder, our capacity will increase if we are really prizing our parents.

To truly honor is not always easy and exciting. It takes a true Christlike effort to walk down some very difficult roads.

**What does true honor for parents look like if they have lived honorably? What should we look for?**

This is a great question to answer. Here we can work at shining a light on their contributions and character. It is here where we can imitate their kindness. It is here where we can open our ears wide and drink in the wisdom they have gathered throughout their long years. It is here that we can build them up as they have always built us up!

Our honor to our parents is based upon a godly respect for the life they have given us. Simply because of age, they will have experienced more loss and hardship than the average younger person.

**Respect them in this phase of their lives:**

1 Timothy 5:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup>the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.*

Respect for those older (and younger) is always necessary. We do not rebuke; we approach older men as beloved fathers. If our father is off the mark, a



respectful attitude will go farther towards turning him around than disrespectful anger. This is difficult because we are often programmed to react with old, learned patterns of resentment. Paul is teaching Timothy grace in being an elder in the church.

*<sup>3</sup>Honor widows who are widows indeed; <sup>4</sup>but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.*

Paul is telling Timothy to take care of the widows by making sure their families are taking care of them. This is necessary to help the families be more God-honoring and to fulfill their Christian responsibilities. Paul wants Timothy to work the system that God had already put into place.

James 1:27: (NASB) *Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

We need to be engaged in the lives of those under trials. If our parents are experiencing trials, we need to be there.



**CONNECTING THE COMMANDMENTS**  
**BE WILLING TO DO THE HARD WORK**  
**TO HONOR YOUR PARENTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN**  
**THEY HAVE SUFFERED LOSS AND DIFFICULTY.**

If our parents are in an unsafe environment, get them out. Evict family members that take advantage of their frailty. Find able caregivers to help in ways you cannot help. Keep them safe! If there are areas we cannot cover in their care, it is important to reach out for help.

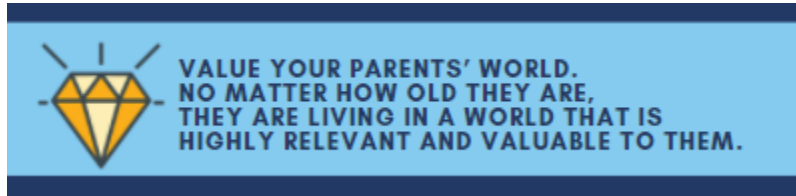
 **Recognition of moral authority, 5. Honor Your Father and Mother, PragerU**

- *Second, honoring parents is how nearly all of us come to recognize that there is a moral authority above us to whom we are morally accountable. And without this, we cannot create or maintain a moral society. Of course, for the Ten Commandments the ultimate moral authority is God who is therefore higher than even our parents. But it is very difficult to come to honor God without having had a parent, especially a father, to honor.*



This is an interesting correlation that we can more easily honor God if we had a father who was worthy of honor. My dad was one of those fathers who had a powerful and positive influence on my everyday life. I understand honoring God much more easily than some others simply by virtue of being born my father's son. I have been blessed!

Excerpts from *Seven Keys to Honoring Parents*, by Don Wilton, 2013



**Psalms 92:12-15: (NASB)** <sup>12</sup>*The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.* <sup>13</sup>*Planted in the house of the LORD, They will flourish in the courts of our God.* <sup>14</sup>*They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green,* <sup>15</sup>*To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*



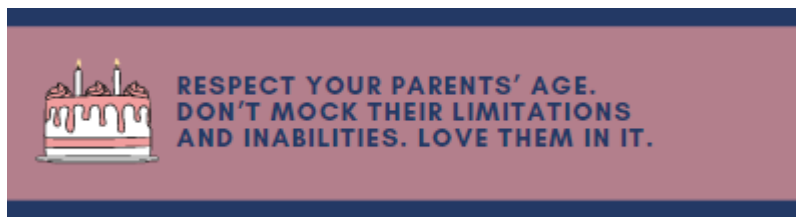
In order to draw out an elderly parent to contribute from their life experiences, you have to find something that makes them feel understood and valuable. In my case, my dad had advanced Alzheimer's when he was living with us before he passed away. He loved music - it was his life. We would play music for him, and my wife and his caregiver would dance with him. We asked him questions about past performances that he could remember. We encouraged him to teach my 8-year-old nephew to learn how to play *Chopsticks* on the piano. My dad just beamed because he was helping and contributing.



Sunday dinner with the family is very important to my mom. Additionally for the last several years, we have an annual get-together to make pierogis. Many of the grandkids gather at her house and learn to make them for Sunday dinner. This wonderful skill is relevant and will live on because it is important to the family. She is passing on this wonderful skill as her grandmother passed it down to her!



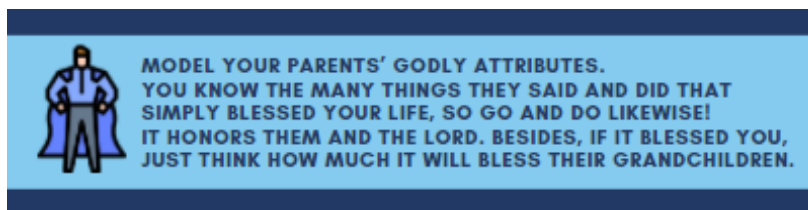




**Ecclesiastes 12:1-2:** (NASB) *'Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, I have no delight in them; <sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain;*

We all know the beginning of this verse but rarely remember what it is about. It is saying the days will become burdensome as we age. We need to *remember our Creator in the days before this happens.*

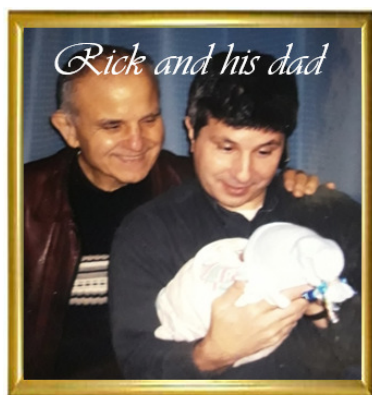
We need to respect our parents' ages. Recognize the trials and difficulties they have experienced and are now experiencing, and help them carry the weight of these difficulties as best we can.



**Job 12:12:** (NASB) *Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding.*

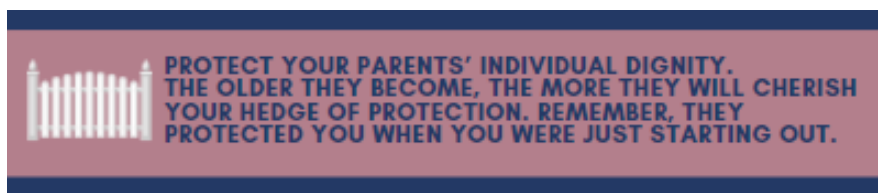


I can't help but think about my mother-in-law, Josie. She lived with us for 13 years. She was an amazing Christian example to me in all that she did. We were blessed to have her live with us when our son was young because he also benefited from her scriptural knowledge and the example she set of a dedicated Christian. I wanted to be like her!



My dad was hard of hearing from the time he was a kid, so he was not a great communicator because he really could not hear what was going on. It is hard to stay in a conversation when you cannot hear. After he passed, we found a prayer he had written out as a young man. He kept it in one of his books he looked at often. When I read that prayer, I could see it revealed what was in his heart. Maybe he couldn't share it, but it was a part of him. We want to model living godliness, as it is a powerful thing.

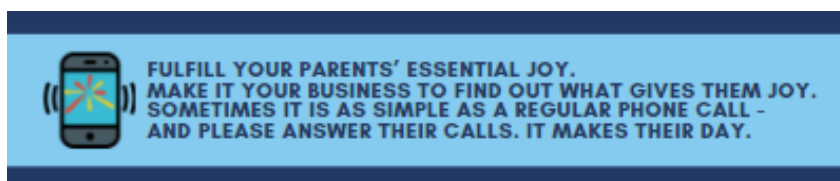




**Leviticus 19:32:** (NASB) *You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.*

Live a life without regret. It may mean bringing your parents into your home to care for them. If that is not possible, we should provide a safe and caring place for them where we can visit often and look out for them. Everyone cannot bring aging parents into their home because of room or other constraints. Nursing home facilities can be wonderful, but we must make sure they are well cared for, are supported and not forgotten.

What we honor we protect. Our parents protected us as we were growing up, and they should be safe and cared for as they age and become weak. Have them under the roof of your heart, even if you cannot have them under the roof of your home.



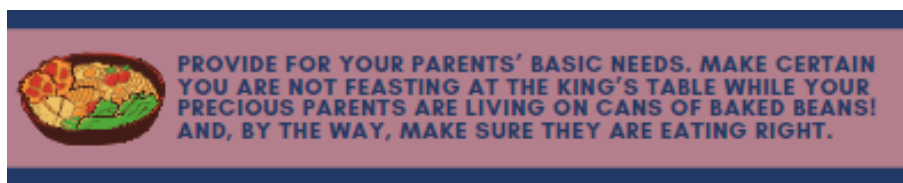
**Proverbs 23:22-25:** (NASB) <sup>22</sup>*Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.* <sup>23</sup>*Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.* <sup>24</sup>*The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.* <sup>25</sup>*Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.*



My mom lives with us now - what makes her happy is Snickers candy bars, caramel popcorn and ice cream! Of course, we need to limit those and watch out for her health. She also finds joy in calling relatives and old friends but forgets to do it unless we dial the phone and hand it to her and say, "Guess who is on the phone?" That certainly brings her joy.



My mom takes great joy in Sunday dinner. She loves to prep for it and watch the kids play in her house and around the family. It is wonderful to make her life full by the simple act of going to see her on Sunday!



**1 Timothy 5:8:** (NASB) *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*



That is a powerful statement. Honoring our parents is providing for our own. This Scripture is not just limited to our kids. If our parents need help, we need to provide for their basic needs. It is harder to go out when we are older.



**COMMANDMENT 5**  
**JUST DO IT: HONOUR YOUR GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY. JUST DO IT. GOD SAID IT. YOU WILL BE SO GLAD YOU DID.**

Micah 6:8: (NASB) *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?*

To honor your father and your mother is *to walk humbly with your God*. If our parents have not been good examples we can still honor them in a godly way with godly compassion, godly thinking and godly principles.



### CONNECTING THE COMMANDMENTS

CONSCIOUSLY LOOK FOR WAYS TO HONOR YOUR PARENTS.

PATIENTLY ENTER THEIR WORLD AND THEIR MEMORIES.

COMPASSIONATELY LISTEN TO THEIR ACHES AND PAINS.

ENERGETICALLY SERVE THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS.

EMPATHIZE WITH THEIR WOES.

HELP THEM DIVIDE THEIR SORROWS.

ENGAGE IN THEIR JOYS.

SHARE WITH THEM THE LEGACY THEY HAVE PASSED ON TO YOU.

This is the ideal, and it takes work. Being a caregiver can be a difficult task and responsibility. It is helpful to stay connected to God and those who can give us spiritual encouragement. We should not be ashamed to ask for help from friends or family when we need a break. Glory is given to God when we team up to help someone give help to their parents. People live a lot longer nowadays. This brings on more physical maladies, more mental and emotional breakdowns by virtue of age. Let's do the best we can in honoring our parents, and realize we are *honoring Him by taking care of them*.

*So, what does honoring your mother and father look like?*  
*For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...*  
*Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on January 25, 2021

Ep. 1162: Has the Bible Been Mistranslated  
or Misunderstood? (Part IV)

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## Bonus Material and Study Questions

***Let parents bequeath to their children not riches, but the spirit of reverence.***  
- Plato

Here is some background on the phrase *Abba Father*. This phrase gives us a look into the depths of parenthood as God designed it to be:

(Source: Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words) *Abba* is an Aramaic word, found in Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6. In the Gemara (a rabbinical commentary on the Mishna, the traditional teaching of the Jews) it is stated that slaves were forbidden to address the head of the family by this title. It approximates to a personal name, in contrast to "Father," with which it is always joined in the New Testament. This is probably due to the fact that, *abba* having practically become a proper name, Greek-speaking Jews added the Greek word *pater*, "father," from the language they used. *Abba* is the word framed by the lips of infants, and betokens unreasoning trust; "father" expresses an intelligent apprehension of the relationship. The two together express the love and intelligent confidence of the child.

***Abba* is always used in a dramatic and emotional setting:**

**Mark 14:32-36:** (NRSV) <sup>32</sup>*They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, Sit here while I pray. <sup>33</sup>He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake. <sup>35</sup>And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>He said, Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.*

**Romans 8:12-17:** (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>*So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, Abba! Father! <sup>16</sup>it is that very spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.*

**Galatians 4:1-7:** (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>*My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; <sup>2</sup>but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup>So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.*

To use the phrase *Abba Father* captures the true essence of fatherhood. It symbolizes unreserved trust in the depth of trial and agony; it symbolizes the honor and respect due to the father of deliverance and it symbolizes the true bond of brotherhood of children united under their father.

**Jesus' example of honoring his parents:**

**Luke 2:40-52:** (NRSV) <sup>40</sup>*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. <sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*



<sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety. <sup>49</sup>He said to them, why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**John 19:25-28:** (NIV) <sup>25</sup>Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, Dear woman, here is your son, <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, here is your mother. From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. <sup>28</sup>Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, I am thirsty.

## Christian Questions Weekly Newsletter

CQ Rewind Show Notes and Study Questions

Text

**CQREWIND**

to **22828** to get started.



# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1161: What Does Honoring Your Father and Mother Look Like?

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1161-honor-mother-father/>

See:  **CQ Rewind**  
SHOW NOTES

1. What concept do the first four Commandments revolve around? Explain how they build layers upon this concept. (See Exodus 20:1-11)
2. What do the next six Commandments teach us about? When we look at the whole body of Commandments, we see they are an integrated series of foundational principles on which to build what? How does this change the way you understood the Ten Commandments? (See Exodus 20:1-17)
3. How are the first Commandment and the fifth Commandment related? Does the phrase, *that your days may be long in the land your God is giving you*, a reward or a consequence? How do we know? Why is honoring parents so important? (See Exodus 20:3,12, Leviticus 19:1-4, Deuteronomy 27:14-16)
4. Should children always obey their parents, even if the parental instructions are immoral, illegal or dangerous? Reconcile your answer with Ephesians 6:1-4. What would be a good course of action for these children?
5. If we, as adults, have parents who attempt to influence us in a negative, destructive way, do we still honor them? Does this mean we go along with them or do not oppose them? How do we stay righteous and yet honor a destructive parent?
6. What is the principle we see demonstrated by Paul in Acts 5:27-29? What is the order we must follow as Christians in our dealings with all others in our lives? If we know that no matter what we do, our parents will not become more righteous in their ways, why should we still do our best to honor and prize them?
7. If we are married or an independent single person, how much should our parents influence our lives? What is the order of our priorities now? Why can we say this? (See Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 19:6) In what must we be firm with our parents?
8. What are seven key essentials to follow in honoring your parents? How do you honor your parents? How can you “prize” them even more? (See Psalms 92:12-15, Ecclesiastes 12:1-2, Job 12:12, Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 23:22-25, 1 Timothy 5:8, Micah 6:8)
9. What can you do to implement one or all of these seven keys in the lives of your parents or someone else older in your life who could use the honor you bring? Think of your spiritual parents or mentors, as these are also “parents”.