

Honoring Mom and Dad

Ephesians 6:1-3

Introduction:

- The Bible is very clear that children are a blessing from God which are entrusted to parents
- Christian Moms and Dads especially have been given a divine authority from God to raise their kids in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
- Our society today has tried to replace the biblical authority given to mothers and fathers with the power of the state- Illustr- Transgender teen case in Ohio
- The world is destroying the foundation of the home today, and it is no wonder that our society is crumbling morally. God's word is clear about the importance of the parent-child relationship! The role of children is clear- honoring mom and dad!

I. It is Biblical-v. 1

a. Obey your parents! The command is simple.

- i. This not only means that children have the responsibility to obey, but parents have the responsibility to teach their children obedience – one of the most important jobs for a parent. Start young!
- ii. We don't need to teach our children how to disobey because they have each inherited a sinful nature from Adam – but obedience must be taught.
- iii. This is what all parent's discipline for a child must come to. Disobedience must be punished, so that obedience can be learned.
- iv. Pro 22:15-Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.
- v. The overemphasis on self-esteem today is not helping. We need loving discipline which cultivates obedience!

b. Why should children be obedient/submissive- God's design!

- c. To whom should children direct their obedience- their parents!
 - i. Not their own wisdom
 - ii. Not friends
 - iii. Not worldly culture
 - iv. See Luke 2:51-52
- d. In the Lord, for this is right: The apostle gives us some reasons for the child to obey the parent. First, they are to obey in the Lord. This means that their obedience is part of their Christian obedience. Disobedience to parents is disobedience to God!
- e. It does not say honor your father and mother if they are honorable
- f. Obey your parents if they are perfect; Christian; etc.
- g. It just says to obey- and the motive is for the Lord's sake!
- h. While we are required to honor parents, that doesn't include imitating ungodly ones (Ezekiel 20:18-19 But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols: I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;).
- i. If a parent ever instructs a child to do something that clearly contradicts God's commands, that child must obey God rather than his parents (Acts 5:29).
- j. Honor thy father and mother- one of the ten commandments!
 - i. It is not the first commandment, but the first one with a promise which we will look at soon.
 - ii. Note: It is the first commandment dealing with human relationships
- k. What does it mean to honor?
 - i. As we have already seen, it entails submission and obedience as a child
 - ii. Honoring your father and mother is being respectful in word, action, and **attitude!** Jesus rebuked the Pharisees- This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.
 - iii. Obedience with attitude is sin (eye rolling, tantrums, etc.)

- iv. Honor your parents- and their rules!
 - 1. Friends, music and movies, etc.
 - 2. Some lie, talk back, get bitter at parents, silent treatment, rebel.

This is not honoring!

- v. An attitude of esteem for their position. The Greek word for honor means “to revere, prize, and value.” Honor is giving respect not only for merit but also for rank. In other words whether or not you think they deserve it!
- vi. Yes, God has given you imperfect parents to help you grow!

l. Honor is both private (attitude) and public! Don’t disparage your parents!

II. It is Practical

- a. Obey- for this is right!
- b. If you are not honoring your parents, you cannot honor God! If a young person is not right with their parents, they cannot be right with God! Mal 1:6
- c. Obedience to parents prepares children for obedience to God! Illustr David
- d. Prepares children for the real world- teachers, employers, government, etc.
- e. We saw last week- obedience is for our own good! Illustr- guardrail or lack thereof in Haiti
- f. Thank God for strict parents! Hebrews 12:5-10
- g. The first commandment with promise (Deut 5:16)- long life, at least that’s how we usually interpret it
 - i. One reason: See Deut 21:18-21
 - ii. This could be talking about mainly the quality of life- a full life, a fulfilling life
 - iii. This is a promise that is hard to specify, but the opposite is true also! Your life can be extended or shortened as God sees fit!
 - iv. Many have died young through disobedience- wrong friends (car accidents), drugs, etc.
 - v. Illustr- Evangelist Ed Carter’s testimony

- h. Those who honor their parents are blessed (Jeremiah 35:18-19). In contrast, those who exhibit ungodliness in the last days are characterized by disobedience to parents (Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2)
 - i. Solomon, the wisest man, urged children to respect their parents (Proverbs 1:8-9; 13:1; 30:17).
- III. Continual
- a. Does this commandment have an end? 18? 21? 50?
 - b. What it means to honor our father and mother may change as we grow into adulthood, but the principle always endures. The adult child does not owe the parent obedience, but they do owe the parent honor.
 - c. When one gets married, the leave and cleave principle is in effect i.e. the wife's submission/obedience is to her husband
 - d. I mention this last point because there is a generational dynamic at play that we should address biblically. At least from an American perspective.
 - e. For many years 18 was an age which represented adulthood (there is no clear age in the Bible. Jewish custom was age 13)- you went off to work, college, or war and began your own life. Now, because of many factors (financial, etc.) young adults live home a lot longer than they used to.
 - f. With the exception of a man leaving his parents to cleave to his wife, the Bible is largely silent on the specific topic of grown children in the home, and so I think we have to look to the larger principles in God's Word for guidance.
 - g. There's nothing wrong with this biblically- except if it is to encourage laziness
 - h. There should be clearly defined boundaries with your adult children
 - i. Pitching in to help
 - ii. Moral rules still to be followed
 - iii. There's a difference between parents setting clear limits on moral issues in their house, and giving an opinion on every matter under the sun
 - iv. The goal is always for them to be able to fly out of the nest and follow Christ independent of mom and dad watching over their shoulder

- i. I heard a preacher say he realized his role transitioned from commander to coach- not an easy thing to do!
- j. Nevertheless adult children always have the obligation to honor their parents!
- k. In later years, this can also be applied to caring for elderly parents

Conclusion:

- Young Jesus, though he was the Son of God, obeyed His earthly parents and as a result grew in wisdom (Luke 2:51—52) and he also obeyed His Heavenly Father too!
- Children need to get back to obedience
- Parents need to get back to instructing and teaching obedience!

Father, hear us, we are praying.

Hear the words our hearts are saying.

We are praying for our children.

Keep them from the powers of evil,

From the secret, hidden peril.

Father, hear us for our children.

From the worldling's hollow gladness,

From the sting of faithless sadness,

Father, Father, keep our children.

Through life's troubled waters steer them.

Through life's bitter battles cheer them.

Father, Father, be thou near them.

And wherever they may bide,

Lead them home at eventide.

-Amy Carmichael.