

LOVE: CHILDREN LOVE YOUR PARENTS

Exodus 20:1-12: “And God spoke all these words, saying: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. ... Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.’”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Numerous passages from the Old Testament show that God expected children to respect and honor their parents.
1. Exodus 21:15: “And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.”
 2. Leviticus 20:9: “For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father and his mother; his blood shall be upon him.”
 3. Deuteronomy 27:16: “‘Cursed is the one who treats his father or mother with contempt.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’”
 4. Proverbs 20:20: “Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.”
 5. Deuteronomy 21:18-21: “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of the city, and the gate of his city. And they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil person from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.”
 - a. The whole community was affected.
 6. Young people, listen to the words of advice from Proverbs:

1:8: “My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother.”

6:20-22: “My son, keep your father’s command, and do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually

upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you; and when you awake, they will speak with you.

10:1, 5: “A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother. ... He who gathers in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.”

13:1: “A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”

15:5: “A fool despises his father’s instruction, but he who receives reproof is prudent.”

17:1, 6: “Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife. ...Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.”

17:25: “A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.”

23:22: “Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.”

These commandments and many more cohesed the Jewish family closer together than any other people under the sun.

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS EQUALLY PLAIN THAT CHILDREN ARE TO HONOR AND OBEY PARENTS.

- A. Eph. 6:1-3: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”
- B. Col. 3:20: “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”
- C. Our Lord set the proper example for children today to follow in this matter.
 - 1. Luke 2:51-52: “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

2. Even in the hour of His death, Jesus still honored His mother.
 - a. John 19:26-27: “When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.”

II. CHILDREN SHOULD HONOR AND OBEY THEIR PARENTS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:

- A. Because parents know more about life than their children.
- B. Because God has given parents the right and the obligation to discipline children.
- C. Because the principle is for the experienced to teach and guide the inexperienced.
 1. It is a fact that the journeyman is more capable than the apprentice.
 - a. This is true of any relationship:

Father - child
Teacher - student
Supervisor - trainee
- D. Because honoring one’s parents makes it easier to honor and obey God.

III. WE CAN HONOR OUR PARENTS BY:

- A. Seeking and taking their advice.
- B. Speaking kindly to them and about them.
- C. Setting the right example in our lives before others.
 1. Nothing brings more honor to a parent than to have others speak well of their children. On the other hand, nothing can bring more shame and heartbreak than to see one’s children going wrong.

- D. Becoming a true Christian and remaining faithful and active in the Church.
- E. Selecting another faithful Christian for a marriage partner and having a happy home.
- F. Parents should see that their children are **not** ashamed of them.

IV. THIS HONOR INVOLVES OUR TAKING CARE OF OUR AGED PARENTS.

- A. 1 Tim. 5:3-8: “Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. ... 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.”
- B. Matt. 15:4-9: “For God commanded, saying ‘Honor your father and your mother’ and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me has been dedicated to the temple’ -- ‘is released from honoring his father or mother.’ ‘Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”