

May 11, 2003
AM Service – Mother's Day
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“Honor Your ... Mother”

Ex 20:12

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Jesus summed up all the commandments like this: Love God and Love neighbor. The first four commandments speak of our responsibility to God. The last five speak of our responsibility to our neighbor and others. The fifth commandment makes the transition from the responsibilities in our relationship to God to the responsibilities toward our neighbor and others. It provides a good transition because the Bible views the raising of children as a sacred obligation to God Himself.

Ps 127:3 NLT – “Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.” Parents must view their children as a gift from God and as belonging to God. Parents ought to place their children in God's hands for they are His. Therefore, parents have been given a sacred trust and are to care for their children as taking proper care of a possession belonging to God. This means they are to bring their children up to know God and His commandments. They are to do this by telling them about God and His principles for living. And it is vital that they do this by showing them through a good example. If parents would do *that*, then, perhaps, their children would honor them.

I. The Bible tells us whom we should honor and why:

It tells us to honor:

1. God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

(1 Tim 1:17 NLT) Glory and honor to God forever and ever. He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

(1 Tim 6:15-16) God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

(Rev 4:11) "You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being."

(John 5:23) that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

(Heb 2:9 NLT) What we do see is Jesus, who "for a little while was made lower than the angels" and now is "crowned with glory and honor" because he suffered death for us. Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone in all the world.

And the Bible tells us how we are to honor God:

a.) Honor Him with our praise, worship, showing reverence toward Him:

(Ps 22:23) You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel

b.) We honor Him by giving to Him through the church:

(Prov 3:9) Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;

c.) We honor Him by obeying His laws:

(Jer 3:17 NLT) In that day Jerusalem will be known as The Throne of the LORD. All nations will come there to honor the LORD. They will no longer stubbornly follow their own evil desires.

d.) We honor Him by living healthy lives – taking care of our bodies:

(1 Cor 6:19-20) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

e.) We honor Him by keeping the faith even through trials:

(1 Peter 1:6-7) though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

2. And the Bible says (Prov 25:27) It is not good to ...seek one's own honor.
But incredibly God will honor those who honor Him:

a.) (1 Sam 2:30) Those who honor me I will honor

(John 12:26) Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

b.) Humble obedience to God brings honor:

(Prov 29:23 NLT) Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.

(Rom 2:7-11) To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory,

honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.

c.) And so live wisely for (Prov 3:35) The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.

3. We are to honor elders / leaders in the church
(1 Tim 5:17) The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

4. We are to honor one another:
(Rom 12:10) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Especially those who sacrifice for the sake of the faith:

(Phil 2:29-30 NLT) be sure to honor people like him (E/paph/ro/ditus). For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while trying to do for me the things you couldn't do because you were far away.

5. We are to honor the King (i.e. our governing authorities)
(1 Peter 2:17) Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

6. And, of course, we are to honor our father and mother
(Ex 20:12) "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Honoring parents is particularly important to God. This is the first commandment with a promise attached. To live in peace for generations in the Promised Land, the Israelites would need to respect authority and build strong families. But what does it mean to "honor" parents? Partly, it means speaking well of them and politely to them. It also means acting in a way that shows them courtesy and respect (but not obeying them if it means disobeying God). It means following their teaching and example of putting God first. Parents have a special place in God's sight. Even those who find it difficult to get along with their parents are still commanded to honor them.

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[Today we particularly honor our mothers]

1. First, mothers should be honored for their steadfast love.
2. Secondly, mothers should be honored for the tremendous impact that they have had.
3. Third, mothers should be honored because where they are that is where home is.

II. The Bible tells us what honor means:

1. Reverence

Honor literally means: to be heavy or carrying a lot of weight. Today we say that someone carries a lot of weight we mean that person is important; influential, person of authority, who has a lot of responsibility. To honor is to give reverence. It is to hold someone in high regard and to esteem highly. Therefore when I honor my parents or anyone in authority, I lovingly respect them and hold them in high regard, appreciating the responsibility that they carry and the importance God has given them in their role over me.

2. Kindness

(Pr 14:31) "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." In this Scripture honor is associated with showing kindness and kindness is by no means oppressive. We are to be kind to others even those who are often not treated kindly by others, like the poor. When we show kindness to others we honor them and in so doing we honor God.

3. Obedience

(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 a promise- "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Here Paul makes it clear that one honors his parents when he is obedient to them and does not go his own way. (Prov 15:5 NLT) "Only a fool despises a parent's discipline; whoever learns from correction is wise."

4. Respect

(Ex 21:15) Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death.

One does not honor his parents when he is contemptible, abrupt, or sharp, when he shows contempt, or despises them. And certainly a child is not to attack his parents verbally or physically. In OT times the punishment for such a crime was death. Or to mock our parents, whether by actions, looks or words, that is to dishonor them. (Prov 30:17) "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures."

5. Make Glad

(Prov 23:24-25) The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!

To honor one's parents means that we should seek to make them happy.

6. Meet Needs

Honoring one's parents means to provide for their needs, to care for them, especially as they get older (1Tim 5:4,8)- But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so

repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ... [v8] If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Even while Jesus hung dying on the cross He was deeply concerned about the care and needs of His mother (John 19:25a, 26-27) Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother... 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," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

So the Bible makes clear that we are to honor others and we are to do it with all our heart. We honor God and others including our parents with all our heart when we: Show them reverence, kindness, obedience, respect; when we bring them joy, seeking to make them happy; when we are helpful and provide for their care. We are not to treat them with contempt; we are not to despise or mock them.

III. The Bible tells us that giving honor is better than receiving:

God has shown through out the Scriptures that those who honor Him will be honored.

We also find this principle in God's Word: It is better to give than to receive honor.

Rom 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves

(Rom 12:10 NLT) Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Giving honor is better than receiving honor. We can honor others in one of two ways. One involves ulterior motives. We honor our bosses so they will reward us, our employees so they will work harder, the wealthy so they will contribute to our cause, the powerful so they will use their power for us and not against us. God's other way involves love. As Christians, we honor people because they have been created in God's image, because they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and because they have a unique contribution to make to Christ's church. Does God's way of honoring others sound too difficult for your competitive nature? Why not try to outdo one another in showing honor? Put others first!

There are 3 purposes for the fifth Commandment:

1. It teaches us about authority. As the child is obedient to the parent, he is learning also how to be obedient and respectful to the authority of God. When a child honors and responds correctly to the authority of the parent, it is easier for him to come to know the Lord and to respect and respond properly to the Heavenly (Parent)/Father. So you can see why it is extremely important for the parent to discipline their children properly. Children need guidelines and boundaries. They need to know what they can do and not do (and they want that). It prepares them to know and accept God's ways.

2. It teach us to benefit from our parents' experience so that our life might be productive as we profit from their wisdom (Pr 4). The older I get the more I realize and respect the value of the many things my parents taught me.

3. It's purpose is to prepare us for life (Pr 6: 20-23 - My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life.

In one church, when a Bible is presented to a third-grade child, the child recites a passage of Scripture. On one occasion, everything was going well until the minister came to one little boy who couldn't remember his name, much less a Bible verse. The little boy's eyes frantically searched for his mother, who was seated very near the front. When he finally spotted her, he was greatly relieved when she whispered, "I am the light of the world," to which he immediately bellowed, "My mother is the light of the world." (Rodney Wilmoth, Minneapolis, Minnesota.)

Through honoring our parents we are prepared for life lived as God meant us to live - honoring Him and obeying Him by honoring others. And in teaching our children respect, and obedience we are preparing them for life as God meant them to live.