



Exodus 20:12

HONORING YOUR PARENTS

Much of our society has a frightening mentality about marriage and the family. Having lost their base of authority, they are groping to figure out how to make human relationships meaningful in a culture that is disintegrating. With all the confusion, it is time to reiterate the divine pattern for marriage and family living. And the revival of the family has to begin in the church, because the world's confusion on marriage and the family has made itself at home in the Body of Christ. ...If the family is not preserved, all of society will collapse; it is inevitable. The family is the basic unit of human society. When it crumbles, everything will come crashing down with it, because man will have lost the ability to pass on any meaningful thing to the emerging generation. With no common ground of communication and discipline, every generation carries within it the seeds of its own destruction.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

The Ten Commandments reveal God's rational, righteous, redeeming character. They also summarize the foundational principles for ethics and for life. At the center of the Ten Commandments is the family.

- A Relationship to God—Heart (20:3-6)
 - B Relationship to God—Words (20:7)
 - C Relationship to God—Deeds (20:8-11)
 - D Relationship to Family—Heart, Words, Deeds (20:12)
 - C Relationship to Others—Deeds (20:13-15)
 - B Relationship to Others—Words (20:16)
- A Relationship to Others—Heart (20:17)



THE COMMAND

Honor your father and your mother.

- Set great _____ upon your parents.
- See the divine _____ of the family.
- Seek to _____ your parents when you are young (Eph. 6:1).
- Seek to respect, appreciate, and _____ your parents when you are older and they are old (1 Tim. 5:4, 8).

The most difficult of all the mitzvot is to honor your father and mother.
—Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (2nd cent)

The honoring of parents is key to social stability and security of tenure in the land. When we step out of the arena of duty to God, we step into the arena of duty within the family, our foremost area of obligation in the world.
—J. Alec Motyer

There are three partners in the creation of a human being: the Holy One, a person's father, and a person's mother. When a person honors their father and mother, God says: "I credit them as if ... they had honored Me."
—Talmud, Kiddushin 30b (5th cent)

Honor. Heb., *kabad*, "to be heavy; to make weighty, honor, set high value upon; or, in a bad sense, to harden; become burdensome."

From the day the child is born to the day the parents die, everything in the relationship changes except the moral duty of honor.
—Lewis Smedes

THE REASONS

That your days may be long [and that it may be well with you] in the land which the Lord your God is giving you. (cf. Deuteronomy 5:16)

1. _____ life.
2. _____ life.
3. _____ life.

THE PRINCIPLES

- God has established the _____ as the foundational structure for a healthy society (Genesis 2:24).
- God has established proper _____ in every sphere of human life (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).
- God has called us to _____ our parents even though they are imperfect, sinful, and, inevitably, fail us (Luke 2:41-52).
- God has called us, as parents, to both love and _____ our children—by example, instruction, and discipline (Deut. 6:7).
- God has given us a new family in Jesus Christ—the church—where we can learn from older believers, encourage younger believers, and experience help and healing in this world (1 Tim. 3:15; 5:1-2).

The promise coupled with this command...applies to the nation rather than to the individual. It is the declaration of the result of accepting and acting upon a philosophy, rather than the announcement of a personal reward. However, there can be no doubt that the personal element is present.

—G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945)

Nearly three decades of research evaluating the impact of family structure on the health and well-being of children demonstrates that children living with their married, biological parents consistently have better physical, emotional, and academic well-being. Society should promote the family structure that has the best chance of producing healthy children.

—Dr. Jane Anderson

This precept of subjection strongly conflicts with the depravity of human nature which, swollen with pride, bears subjection grudgingly. By that submission which is easiest to tolerate, the Lord therefore gradually accustoms us to all lawful subjection.

—John Calvin

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.

—William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Learning obedience is an important part of child development. Through obedience, children learn self-control and develop positive character traits.

—Dr. Anthony Kane

A child does not lose trust when a parent makes a mistake... A child loses trust when he senses that his father and mother do not really believe what they say they believe.

—Lewis Smedes