

HONOR YOUR FATHER

JUNE 16, 2024

INTRO: No one would accuse God of being a bad Father; yet, His children disobeyed and rebelled against Him, and opened the door to all the evils we face in the world today. If this happened with a perfect Father in a perfect environment, how can we succeed with imperfect people in an imperfect environment?

God's Top Ten – EX. 20:12

Commandments 1-4 are vertical; 6-10 are horizontal. The fifth one is transitional, and the foundation upon which loving our neighbor is built.

Hear and Fear – DEUT. 21:18-21

Could this be based on what Adam and Eve did? Dishonoring parents was punishable by death (EX. 21:7; LEV. 20:9; PR. 20:20, 30:17).

The Prodigal Son – LUKE 15:12-24

Could it be that the father ran to him to prevent the elders from stoning him to death? Some observations:

- He thought his home life was a problem. Too many rules, responsibilities.
- He desired popularity with men, not God or his parents.
- His values, morals, and attitudes were based on a worldly view.
- He valued things money could buy: house, wardrobe, diamond ring.
- He started with “Give me” my inheritance.

When He Came to His Senses

- His problem was in his heart, not his home life.
- His father had more to offer than material wealth.
- His fleshly desires were insatiable.
- His worldly view was wrong.
- He started as a ruler, ended as a slave.
- He started with abundance and ended being abased.
- He went from “Give me” to “Forgive me”.
- He learned that things money can't buy are more important: a \$300,000 house is worthless if it's not a home; a \$20,000 wardrobe is of no value if the body is sick; a \$5,000 diamond ring is nothing without love.
- It's better to have popularity with God and parents than with peers.

Three Ways

The Hebrew word for honor means to give weight to. It's the same word for glory. It requires reverence, obedience, and gratitude.

- 1.) Reverence – deep respect or regard for someone. Jesus never took credit for anything He did (**JOHN 12:47-50 MSG; PR. 1:8-9 NLT**).
- 2.) Obedience – Jesus always did what pleased the Father (**JOHN 8:29**). To God, obedience is better than sacrifice (**1 SAM. 15:22-23**).
 - A.) **EPH. 6:1-3, DEUT. 6:20-25 NLT**
- 3.) Gratitude – a major way to honor our father.
 - A.) Children will never know how much they owe their parents until they get married and have children of their own.
 - B.) Parents sacrifice constantly. Time, money, energy, effort, sleep...
 - C.) Being grateful and expressing gratitude is a powerful way to show honor to those who sacrificed so much for our well-being.

Conclusion:

The Fifth Commandment mandates we honor our parents. We do so by showing them reverence, by obeying them, and by showing them gratitude. God is so serious about this law that He attached a death sentence to those who refuse to obey it.