

## **Commandment #5 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.**

Exodus 20:12, Eph. 6:1-4

Today were looking at the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment.

The first with a promise.

**Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.**

This past week I flew to Rochester.

I remembered what it is about flying that I don't like. The unpredictability.

The plane leaving Aberdeen was only 2 ½ hours late.

Then in Minneapolis I had to run to catch my flight to Rochester.

On the return home the plane from Rochester never did come.

And we were bussed to Minneapolis and I had 20 minutes to check my bags, go thru security, and do a half-mile sprint to make my plane. Unpredictable!

CHILDREN can be like that.

A BUSINESS MAN traveled a lot and found that he could get very lonely, especially when he had to leave his little 5-year-old daughter Jennifer at home for weeks. One day little Jennifer, gave him a small stuffed penguin with a hand-painted sign on it that said, "I love My Dad!" He said, "I started carrying it everywhere. That penguin traveled hundreds of thousands of miles. Once, in New York, a customs inspector pulled the penguin from my suitcase and asked its meaning. Then said: "**That's about the most valuable thing I've seen in all my years on the job,**" he said. **Thank God we don't charge tax on love.**

Children can be an unpredictable blessing or curse to us.

That's why God gave parents the responsibility and the authority,

To raise their children in the Lord.

**For their protection, direction and Correction.**

And God commanded children to obey their parents.

A pastor was visiting a children's Sunday school class and he asked the children why they loved God. After a few moments a small voice said: "**I guess it just runs in the family.**" I trust your children's love for God runs in your family.

This fifth commandment is called the "**Centerpiece**"

because it involves both our relationship to God and to our fellow man.

You can't love our parents if you don't love God.

GOD GAVE THE 5<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT FOR THE

**I. PROTECTION, CORRECTION, AND DIRECTION OF CHILDREN.**

Because God knew that the family is what holds this society together.

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

The Family is key environment where we learn

Our basic values and ethic.

Where we learn life skills?

To respect others

To not steal,

To not swear,

To develop a work ethic?

Our worship habits.

It is in the family that our conscience is trained and taught.

When its not learned in the home.

Disaster is heard in the country.

**A study has shown that if both parents attend church regularly**

then 72% of their children remain faithful in attendance.

If only the fathers attend then 55% remain faithful

If only the mother, then only 15% remain faithful.

If neither attend then only 6% of children remain faithful.

God gives parents the authority and responsibility to

Raise their children in the way of the Lord to keep the faith of Israel pure.

No child can learn that on their own.

Sometimes it takes a time out, or a swat on the seat to implant it in the brain.

And Gods word gives you permission to do it.

USA today reported that debate over whether CEOs are born or made remains unresolved, but of the top CEO interviewed, there is one thing they overwhelmingly have in common. As children, they were paddled, belted, switched or swatted.

Much to the chagrin of Children Psychologist who wince and warn us about corporal punishment. But Dave Haffner, CEO of *Fortune* 500 manufacturer Leggett & Platt, said because of his upbringing: "I'm disciplined, detailed and organized,"

Joe Moglia, 55 CEO of TD Ameritrade said: "tough love is better than soft love," his books on leadership recommend positive reinforcement backed up by consequences. "You appreciate good-weather days when you get rain," Moglia says

**Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him. Proverbs 22:15**

But not to exceed it.

**Paul writes in Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

Now our society is in an outright war against the family.

Because it is against God

And against anything that might instruct or teach the devotion of God.

God was so serious about this commandment that he made it a capital offense to break it.

**If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head. Leviticus 20:9**

**A family brought their ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker to the veterinarian to be euthanized. The dog suffered from cancer, and they decided that Shane their 4 years old should experience the procedure as they put old Belker to sleep. Little Shane seem to understand as he petted his lifelong friend as Belker slipped peacefully away. The family sat for a while after Belker's death wondering aloud about the sad fact that animals lives shorter lives than humans. When Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." They all turned to the four year old as he explained. "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."**

**Why is it in our world that we treat our dogs better then we treat our father and mothers or our children?**

God is on your side because he ordained Parents to be the guardians of his children, and to **protect, correct and direct** them with God's laws.

## **II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CHILDREN TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS?**

### **1. I WANT TO SPEAK TO LITTLE CHILDREN FIRST-- 3-12 yr olds**

#### **What does it mean to obey and honor your parents.**

If your mom says get up in the morning. You get up.

If mom says: wash the dishes you wash the dishes.

If dad says take out the trash, you take out the trash,

Clean your room you clean your room.

**Or you end up like 14yr old girl who got her own cell phone. Her father** walked by her room one day and looked into no man's land. He found his daughter sobbing amid the sea of debris. He said: "What's wrong?" She said: "My Cell Phone just rang, I heard it, but I couldn't find it."

When a child obey his parents. God is pleased because

You are also obeying God.

**Eph. 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.**

**Notice It doesn't say: children debate your parents in the Lord.**

If children don't honor their parents

They usually don't honor anyone or anybody else, school, or S.S. teachers, or police officers, religious leaders, employers, or their government.

**Nothing would please Satan better**

then for a child to disobey their parents.

Sassing, or slapping.

Little children it is your duty before God to obey your parents.

### **b. What does this commandment mean to adolescents & older children?**

This gets a little more difficult. Takes a different slant.

The **Hebrew** word for Honor also means:

**To respect: Or to hold in high esteem.**

Honoring our parents means: we take them seriously.

With our attitude and actions.

It means to COOPERATE WITH THEM.

**A high school senior asked his mother if he could have the care for the evening. She said: Yes, but I want it home before midnight.** "But, Mom, I'm 18," he protested. She replied: "I know, but my car isn't."

Youth is the age when they need parents who talk to them.  
Who sit down and set the rules and the consequences with them  
and then follow through.  
We need to talk about drugs, and sex,  
About power, money. About faith and prayer.

At this age were not to be our children friends,  
But were to be **parents**.  
We to assist them in making their own decisions.  
Let them learn to face their own consequences.  
Sometimes as painful as that may seem.

**One girl came up to her pastor and said:**

"I want to talk to you about my Mother  
were always hollering at each other. She doesn't .  
He interrupted and said: Wooooo .  
You have no right to holler at you parents no matter what they have done.  
Young people you show me in Gods word  
Where God gives you permission to holler at your parents at any age.  
Or worse to swear at them, or to dishonor them?"

**Proverbs says: Disrespect in the heart of a child is as rebellion.  
I Samuel 15:23 Rebellion is like the sin of divination (witchcraft), and  
arrogance like the evil of idolatry.**

Your parents probably haven't been perfect.  
But they have done their level best.  
And usually they are doing it right.

Just because your Mom's all thumbs and can't run a computer or program  
your IPod, doesn't mean she knows less then you do. She has life smarts.  
She has the **History of living** and **decision-making** that you don't.  
Father have been around and they possess wisdom gained from life  
experiences. Things that you haven't even a clue about.  
risks you haven't calculated.

**For instance when a teenager goes out to buy a used car they look at the appearance. But their wise father looks at the radio pre-set buttons.**  
If they are all set on rapper stations, chances are the transmission is shot."

Parents know the consequence of living in a moral universe.

**Why should your parents trust you when you get into a car with a friend who has drugs and drug paraphernalia in the same car?????**  
**Why should your parents trust you when you risk** being at a alcoholic party or an overnight where there is drug and drinking?  
If their busted your busted. Is that adult thinking?  
Use your parents God has given you to protect you.

**A pretty girl walked up to a department store's fabric counter and said:**  
I want to buy this material for a new dress. How much does it cost?"  
Smirking male clerk said: "Only one kiss per yard,"  
The girl looked him over and said: "That's fine, I'll take ten yards."  
The smart aleck clerk quickly measured out and wrapped the cloth, and with anticipation held it out. The girl snapped up the package smiled, and pointed to her father and said: Dad will pay the bill".  
Use your parents to protect you.

**SLIDE UP (((Paul writes in Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.))))**

Note this verse says: parents are to bring their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord.  
Not in the training and instruction of the world.

In a study of 1000 teens the 250 of them who had rules established in their homes had a better relationship with their parents, and substantially lower risk of smoking, drinking, and using illegal drugs than the 750 of them who had no set of rules or restrictions. (Preaching today.com 1/7/02)

In this godless society we need to sit down together  
And make the rules that will bring the best life for us all.

Every year I am amazed at **Homecoming coronation:**  
When the young Royalty is announced.

They read a little excerpt about them as they walk down the isle.  
And almost every one said: that their hero's or best friends were  
Their parents.

Its interesting that Kids who choose other kids for royalty usually select  
other kids who have a good relationship with their parents.

The valedictorians and Salutatorians are no different.

### **c. WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT CHILD.**

**That's most of us here.**

How do you honor your parents, who are senior citizens,  
Who are dependent on you?

There is very little difference between diapers and depends.

**Leviticus 19:32 Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the  
elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.**

It is just a recent development that we have

Nursing homes, assisted living, and Homes for the aged.

In the past it was responsibility of the children to care for their parents.

And the responsibility of parents to help raise their grandchildren.

Someone has said: **“One mother can raise five children,  
but five adult children can't take care of one mother.”**

**Grimm's stinging fairy tale puts the truth this way.**

Once there was a little old man with trembling hands and feeble eyes whose  
messy table habits became offensive to his daughter-in-law with whom he  
lived, until one day she objected vigorously to her husband.

So she and her husband put the fumbling old man in a corner of the kitchen,  
set him on a stool and gave him his food in an old wooden clay bowl.

Now he no longer **dribbled food down his shirt;**

Nor did his shaking hands soil the **table cloth.**

One day in his trembling, he dropped the bowl and broke it.

At this the daughter-in-law lost it.

**“If you are a pig” she said “you must eat from a trough”. And they  
made a little wooden trough, and he ate from it.**

The pride of their lives was their 4-year-old son. One evening the boy was  
playing with blocks of wood. When the father asked what he was doing, the  
boy smiled and said. “I'm making a trough to feed you and mamma out of  
when I get big.”

For a while the man and women just looked at each other. Then they cried  
and went to the corner and led the little old man back to his place at the

table. They gave him a comfortable chair, and put his food on a plate. And never again were they really, deeply troubled by the food he spilled or the dishes he occasionally broke. They had learned that in honoring a parent, they possessed their own future.

**“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”**

**I must deal with one last difficult topic.**

### **III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HONOR PARENTS WHEN THEY HAVEN'T BEEN HONORABLE?**

**How do you honor a father that you NEVER KNEW.**

**Or a mother who abandoned you.**

Or worse?

I had a young woman in my office that said to me.

How can I honor a father who abused me.

And a mother who knew about it and didn't believe me?

Another lady said: I skip the first two words of the Lord's prayer, because I'd hate to saddle God with the image of the father I know.

Or take a young man who says: I'm setting out on the worst job of the year. I'm looking for a mother's day card that will be respectful without expressing affections I can't imagine feeling.

Today God is not asking you to bury that feeling,

Not to excuse it or exonerate it.

We can't cover for Parents abuses and mistakes.

There are some people here today who have been devastated, emotionally wounded by ungodly parents.

Counselors say it can take 3 to 6 months even years to let it go.

We need to identify the pain, to feel it, to grieve it.

But most important we need to give it to God,

And ask him to help us forgive them,

And release what we've been carrying all these years.

Now someone here is saying:

Ya right, but you don't my father,

You don't know my mom. Or my pain.

**Your right, I don't know. Nobody does,**

But I know what it will take to set you free.

**It takes courage to stop bad eating patterns, and distorted living patterns, immoral behavior patterns.**

Will you stop and say:

Today I will find out what it is that makes me who I am.

I will choose not to go on in my life

until I can change and deal with the unfinished business.

And honor God. And forgive my parents.

**Eph. 6:1-4 Children Honor your father and mother” -- which is the first commandment with a promise 3 that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”**

4 times God repeats this commandment.

1. Exodus 20:12 **Longevity**-- That you may live long. . I WANT THAT
2. Deut. 5:16 **Stability**- That it may go well with you.
3. Eph 6: 1 **Sensibility**--Because it is the right thing to do. .
4. Col 3:20 **Tranquility**- Because it pleases the lord. That's - peace.