



HONORING FATHER AND MOTHER

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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Honoring Father and Mother

SERMON REFERENCE: Exodus 20:12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1787

One of the most basic, fundamental commandments we are to follow is to honor our fathers and mothers.

Exodus 20:12 says, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”

Our parents are the first people we meet in this world; if we do not love and respect them, how can we expect to love and respect others?

Adrian Rogers says, “The religion that does not begin at home does not begin.”

We first honor our parents by obeying them when we are young.

Disobedience is not a weakness; it is a wickedness. Disobedience invites the sure judgment of God. On the contrary, obedience invites the blessings of God. The first secret to a long life and prosperity is learning to honor our fathers and mothers. Through obedience, we learn character and self-control; we receive God’s blessing and protection.

Second, we should care for our parents when they are old.

In our society, people sometimes fail to care for their older parents. We must remember that our parents loved us in spite of our faults; we must love them in spite of their faults.

Third, we should honor our parents at all times.

We do that first by showing respect, no matter what. We also show honor when we express gratitude. Gratefulness blesses our parents more than we could ever know. We honor them when we listen to their counsel. Our parents have the advantage of being further down the road of life. How wise we would be to listen to the ones who love us and have our best interest in mind. We can live noble lives that bring honor to them. Children are an extension of their parents; when they see their children doing things that are godly and worthy, it gives them joy.

Last of all, we must show our parents love, remembering what we owe them; they gave us life, and their blood flows through our veins.

Adrian Rogers says, “The love of your parents for you is the closest thing to the love of God known on this Earth.”

Life Application

Do you obey and honor our Heavenly Father, showing respect, gratitude, and love?

If your parents are living, show love and respect today; if they have passed, give them honor and thank God for their memory.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is an all-out assault on the home and on family values, and it is being done by cynics.
 - i) A cynic is someone who knows the price of everything but knows the value of nothing.
- b) Today, we have a generation that does not even know family values, much less treasures them.
- c) Exodus 20:12
 - i) “Honor thy father and mother” is a command from Almighty God.
- d) Not only is there a neglecting of the family, but there is also an all-out assault on our families.
 - i) It comes from the music industry, Hollywood, and the television industry.
 - (1) Television and modern films seldom give proper place and perspective to the home and the family.
 - (a) Today, the family is often portrayed as dysfunctional.
 - (2) We will not find, as a rule, happily married couples on television.
 - (a) We will also not find family values featured.
 - (3) Parents are systematically being put down as unworthy, not knowing, and not understanding.
 - (a) Now, we have a generation running the government who seem to have that same philosophy.
- e) The family is being redefined today.
 - i) There is a systematic assault on family values as God intended when He made one man, one woman, and put them in the Garden of Eden.
- f) The Ten Commandments have both a vertical and a horizontal relationship.
 - i) They start with our relationship with God.
 - (1) Exodus 20:2-11
 - (2) This is from Heaven to Earth.
 - ii) The last six commandments are about our horizontal relationships.
 - (1) These are our relationships with others.
 - (2) The second half of the Ten Commandments begins with the one that says to honor father and mother.
 - (a) Exodus 20:12
 - iii) There are only ten commandments, and one is given to the subject of honoring father and mother.
 - (1) All society rests upon this commandment.
 - (2) It is the first commandment with a promise.
 - (a) Exodus 20:12
- g) Society cannot long endure where children fail to honor their parents.
 - i) Before God said that we should not kill, steal, bear false witness, or commit adultery, God said that we are to honor father and mother.



- (1) Exodus 20:13-17
- (2) The child who honors father and mother will not steal, will not kill, and will not commit adultery.
- ii) Our parents are the first people we meet.
 - (1) If we cannot love and respect our parents, then how can we expect to love and respect others?
- h) The religion that does not begin at home does not begin.
 - i) The home is the foundation.
 - (1) It is the basis of expressing the love that we have for God, which comes first.
 - (a) The very next step is to love and honor our parents.
- i) Today's message will share three thoughts on how to honor our fathers and mothers as God's Word has commanded.
 - i) Exodus 20:12

2) OBEY THEM WHEN WE ARE YOUNG (COLOSSIANS 3:20)

- a) Colossians 3:20
- b) If you have a rebellious spirit toward your parents, then you are not pleasing Almighty God.
- c) The difference in children is basically between those who obey their parents and those who do not.
 - i) The Continental Divide in character in children is whether or not a child obeys his parents.
- d) Evangelist Dwight L. Moody – “No man or woman who dishonors father or mother ever prospers.”
- e) God will surely judge us if we fail to obey our parents.
 - i) God ranks disobedience to parents with the most vile, wicked, and loathsome sins.
- f) Romans 1:28-32
 - i) In this passage, God speaks of a generation and describes them.
 - ii) He describes what a reprobate mind is.
 - iii) He describes the sins that bring a civilization crashing down.
 - (1) God ranks disobedience to parents as one of these sins.
 - iv) God also describes the people who commit these sins.
 - (1) Verse 32 actually means that some people get their entertainment and joy from watching others disobey their parents and from watching them commit the other sins listed.
 - (a) This is a part of America's entertainment system.
- g) God says that a generation of children who disobey their parents is a sign of the last days.
 - i) It is a sign of a civilization on its last legs.
 - ii) 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - (1) God calls the age in which we are living “perilous times”.
 - (2) A child with a disobedient spirit toward his or her parents has only a form of godliness.
 - (a) That child is not godly and is one that causes perilous times to come.
- h) Disobedience to parents invites the sure judgment of Almighty God.
 - i) Obedience to parents brings the blessings of Almighty God.
- i) Ephesians 6:1-3
 - i) When God gave the other commandments, He gave a warning.
 - ii) But when God gave this commandment, He gave a promise.
 - (1) The promise: “That it may be well with thee, that thou mayest live long on the Earth.”



- (2) When a child learns to obey his or her parents, that child learns character.
- (3) When a child obeys God, then God goes forth to protect and watch over that child and to watch over the land in which that child lives.
 - (a) There is the blessing, the protection of Almighty God.
- j) In rare cases, a parent might command a child to do something that is contrary to the Word of God.
 - i) If this happens, then the commandments of God supersede the commandments of the parent.
 - ii) Ephesians 6:1
 - (1) Sometimes we may have to choose between a command from a parent and a command from God, but this is rare.
 - (2) God is saying that every child is to have the spirit of obedience to his or her parents.
- k) There comes a time when everyone must assume responsibility for themselves, and then they are out from underneath these commands.
 - i) Genesis 2:24
 - ii) You obey your parents when you are young.

3) CARE FOR THEM WHEN THEY ARE OLD (MATTHEW 15:3-9)

- a) There is a very serious problem in America today.
 - i) The elderly, so many times, are forgotten by their children.
- b) God commands that children are to take care of their elderly parents.
 - i) They took care of us in spite of our faults, and now we must care for them in spite of their faults.
 - (1) If we must carry them around, they carried us around.
 - (2) If we must now bathe them, they bathed us.
 - (3) If we must feed them, they fed us.
 - (4) If we must sacrifice for them, they sacrificed for us.
 - ii) There is no religious duty or church work that is more important than taking care of our parents.
- c) Matthew 15:3-9
 - i) In this passage, Jesus rebuked the religionists of His age.
 - (1) They had said that people could take the money that should be used to support their elderly parents and give it to some religious cause, so then they would not have to take care of their parents.
 - (a) Jesus said that this was the tradition of men.
 - (b) Elderly fathers and mothers would be left destitute.
 - (2) This is not implying that we are to give only to our parents and not to the church.
 - (a) We are to obey God and give to God what belongs to Him, and we are to give to our parents what belongs to them.
 - (b) Don't use one as an excuse for not doing the other.
 - (i) Neither excuses our faithfulness in either area.
- d) Jesus said that anyone who is saved and does not care for their aged parents is a hypocrite.
- e) The Bible says that if we don't take care of our parents, then we are worse than an infidel.



- i) 1 Timothy 5:4
 - (1) "To requite their parents" means to take care of their parents.
- ii) 1 Timothy 5:8
 - (1) If a person does not take care of his parents, then he is not even as good as an infidel.
 - (2) Read in context, this verse is not talking about parents providing for their children, but it is talking about children providing for their elderly parents.
- f) We honor our father and mother by obeying them when we are young and caring for them when they are old.
 - i) Nothing could be more clear in the Word of God than this.

4) HONOR THEM WHETHER WE ARE YOUNG OR OLD (EXODUS 20:12)

- a) Exodus 20:12
 - i) "Honor" at its root has the idea of attaching weight to something.
 - ii) Our parents are not to be taken lightly.
 - (1) They are to be given honor.
- b) There are several ways that we can honor our parents:
 - i) By showing respect.
 - (1) Leviticus 19:3
 - (a) This does not mean to tremble in their sight.
 - (b) This means to reverence, to respect, and to never speak disrespectfully to our parents.
 - (2) Leviticus 20:9
 - (a) In Old Testament times, it was a capital crime for a child to curse his father or his mother.
 - (3) Proverbs 30:17
 - (4) Some may say that their parents are not worthy of respect.
 - (a) Only perfect children can demand perfect parents.
 - ii) By expressing gratefulness.
 - (1) Thank them.
 - (2) Learn the attitude of gratitude.
 - (3) Shakespeare said, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child."
 - iii) Listen to their counsel.
 - (1) Even while we have our own home, we still learn from the counsel of our father and mother.
 - (2) Our parents are wise in ways that we are not wise.
 - (3) Proverbs 1:8-9
 - (4) Our parents have the advantage of experience.
 - (a) Psalm 37:25
 - (i) King David said, "Once I was young, now I am old."
 - (ii) The children cannot say that.
 - 1. All they can say is that "Once we were young".
 - 2. Parents have seen both sides of life, and they have had experiences that their children have not had.



- (5) If we are wise, then we will hear the instruction of our fathers.
- iv) By living a godly and noble life.
 - (1) We are extensions of our fathers and mothers.
- v) By showing love to them.
 - (1) We should love our moms and dads.
 - (a) They gave us life.
 - (b) Their very blood flows through our veins.
 - (2) The love that our parents have for us is the closest thing to the love of God known on this Earth.
 - (3) Call them, visit them, do that deed of helpfulness.
 - (a) Put that love in action.
 - (b) Verbalize it, vitalize it, and visualize it.
 - (c) If you are going to do it, then do it now.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Our society is on its way down.
 - i) It has lost the very rudiment of character when we have a generation of unruly young people who disrespect their parents.
- b) May God bring us back to a value that we can treasure:
 - i) To honor our father and our mother.
- c) There is no way that you can honor your father and mother without honoring your Heavenly Father.
 - i) Give your heart to Him.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Be finding Exodus chapter 20 in the Word of God. Exodus chapter 20. In a moment we're going to be looking at a very familiar verse, verse 12. But while it is familiar, it needs to be stated again. We're talking about "Treasuring Family Values". There is an all-out assault on the home and on family values. And it's being done by cynics. A cynic is somebody that knows the price of everything, but he knows the value of nothing. We have a generation today that does not even know family values, much less to treasure them.

Notice God's Word here in Exodus chapter 20 and verse 12, "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Honor thy father and thy mother, that is a command from Almighty God. Again and I want to say there is not only a neglecting of the family, but today there is an all-out assault on our families. It comes from the music industry. It comes from Hollywood. It comes from the television industry. When is the last time you saw on television a modern film that gives proper place and perspective to the home and the family, especially a family living in this generation, in this age? If it is a happy family, it's a family that lived back in the frontier times. But, what I want to say is that you will not find, as a rule, happily married couples on television. You will not find family values featured.

When television began, do you know the kind of shows we watched? We watched, "I Love Lucy", we watched, "Dick Van Dyke", we watched "Lassie". We watched, "Make room for Daddy". We watched, "The adventures of Ozzie and Harriet". We watched, "The Donna Reed Show". We watched, "Father Knows Best", "Leave it to Beaver", "The Real McCoys". Those were the kind of shows that we watched. And all of them had a thread through them of the family.

And then those shows began to be replaced by Roseanne for example, or Dallas, or Dynasty, or L.A. Law, or Falcon Crest, or these other things. And by the way, I didn't watch those. There was just something about them that's distasteful to me. All of them are calculated to poison family relationships. And there's something that has started now in our entertainment that has been actually since the sixties. In the sixties we were taught, our children were taught, don't trust anybody over 30. Now, that generation, we call them today the boomers, they're the ones running the country. They're the ones producing the film and the music. At least publishing the music, a large part of it. And the seeds of rebellion came along in the sixties and parents were a part of the establishment. So, don't trust your parents. Don't obey your parents. Don't honor your parents. They're not worth it. They gave us this miserable world, so we're going to have to have a new generation to take over. And that's what has happened.

And even in the film fare that your little children are watching today where the good films we call, the "The Little Mermaid". I did see that. My children got me to watch that. "The Little Mermaid", it's delightful. Beautiful music, but when you look at that film, the father of this little mermaid, he doesn't understand. He has to be taught by the little mermaid. E.T., I didn't see that one, but I read about it. In E.T., here's an extra-terrestrial and the children have to teach their parents to be loving and kind to this creature from out of space. Or, even "Home Alone". I did see that. "Home Alone". They said, "Papa you've got to watch 'Home Alone.'" And it's cute, it's funny. But you think about it. Here's a little kid who's so smart that he keeps the house from being robbed and keeps his bungling parents from making further mistakes. They're so dumb. They're so stupid. They go off and leave the kid alone. And he's the little wizard, he's the little genius who figures the whole thing out.



Do you see what's happening today? Parents are systematically, even in the good, the so-called good films, they're being put down as unworthy, as stupid, not knowing, not understanding. And now we have a generation running the government who seem to have that philosophy. The family's being redefined today. There is a systematic assault on family values as God intended when God made one man, one woman, put them in a garden and gave them children.

Now what I read to you in Exodus chapter 20 was a verse out of the Ten Commandments. And actually it's the pivotal verse. If you know anything about the Ten Commandments you know that they have both a vertical and a horizontal relationship. First of all, the Ten Commandments start with our relationship with God, "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me. Don't take God's name in vain", and so forth. "Don't make graven images." "Remember the Sabbath day." That's our relationship to God. That's from Heaven to Earth.

And then beginning with the fifth commandment and the last six He begins to talk about our horizontal relationships. Our relationships to others. And He begins the second half of the Ten Commandments with the one that says, "Honor father and mother." Now think about it. Only ten commandments, only ten. And out of the entire ten, one is given to the subject of honoring father and mother. And furthermore, this is the very first in the second half. Why? Because all society rests upon this commandment, "Honor father and mother." It's the first commandment with promise. God says here's a reason that you do this. "That your days may be long in the land which God gives you." Now what He is saying is this. That society cannot long endure where parents fail to be honored, or where children fail to honor their parents. Even before God says, "Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Thou shalt not commit adultery." Before He says all of this, He says we are to honor father and mother because the child that honors father and mother will not steal. He will not kill. He will not commit adultery.

You see, our parents are the first people that we meet. And if we're not right with our parents, if we don't understand our parents, if we cannot love and respect our parents, how can we expect to love and respect others? And what God is saying is this, that the religion that does not begin at home does not begin. That the home is the foundation, the basis of expressing the love that we have for God which comes first. The very next step is to love and to honor our parents. Now I want our parents to listen today, but I especially want children to listen. No matter what age you are, I want you to listen and see what God says that you're to do to honor your parents. Basically, I want to give you three thoughts today and I pray God that the Holy Spirit will etch these upon your consciousness and burn them into your heart that you might learn today on this special day, how to honor your father and your mother as God's Word has commanded that you do. "Honor thy Father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Number one, if you would honor your father and your mother you should **obey them when you are young**. Put it down. Obey them when I am young. Colossians chapter 3 and verse 20. God repeats this in the New Testament. "Children obey your parents in all things. For this is well pleasing unto the Lord." And I don't care what else you do, if you have a rebellious spirit to your parents, you are not pleasing Almighty God. Do you know the difference in kids, the difference in children? The difference basically is between those who obey their parents and those who don't.

If you go out here West, out into the Rockies, you come to the Colorado Rockies, these mountains that we call the Continental Divide and up there in one of those passes as those mountains reach their very peak. The water, the rain, the snow, falls from Heaven and one drop of water may go down toward the west and another drop of water goes down toward the east. That's why they call it the continental divide.



And those drops of waters make up rivulets that make up rivers and one river eventually will empty into the Pacific and another eventually into the Atlantic. And the difference is simply a very slight difference. One drop goes this way, one drop goes that way, but the destination, miles apart. What is the Continental divide in character? What makes the difference, the prime difference in a child? It is whether or not that child obeys his parents. That is a continental divide.

There was a man who lived in another decade, decades ago and part of another century. His name was Dwight L. Moody. He was the Billy Graham of his day, a mighty evangelist, a wise man. One of the wisest men I believe that walked the face of America and yet he was not well educated. But I want you to hear what Dwight L. Moody said. He said, when he reached the age of sixty, he said, "I have lived over sixty years and I have learned one thing if I have learned nothing else. No man or woman who dishonors father or mother, ever prospers." "No man or woman who dishonors father or mother ever prospers." Children, teenagers, listen to me. God will surely judge you if you fail to obey your parents. God ranks disobedience to parents with the most vile and wicked and loathsome sins.

Take you Bibles, turn to Romans chapter 1 and look in verse 28 and I'm going to read through verse 32 and I want you to listen to the catalog of sins that are listed here in Romans chapter 1. God speaks of a generation and this is how God describes them. God says, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." And then God describes what a reprobate mind is. He describes the sins that bring any civilization crashing down. Listen to them, and as you listen as I read this list, first of all I want you to see how vile this list of sins is, and secondly I want you to notice that God ranks disobedience to parents as one of these sins. Verse 29, "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things," now watch it, "disobedient to parents." Do you see the list that disobedience to parents comes with? And then He describes the people who do this. "Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death," God says, if you disobey your parents you are worthy of death. "Not only do they do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Actually that means that some people get their entertainment, their enjoyment watching people disobey their parents. Watching people commit adultery. Watching people do all of the things that are listed here. This is a part of America's entertainment system. God says that a generation of children who disobey their parents is a sign of the last days. It's the sign of a civilization on its last legs.

Take your Bibles this time and turn to Second Timothy chapter 3, Second Timothy chapter 3. Listen to this Scripture in verses 1 through 5. God describes the age in which we're living and He calls this age "perilous times". Listen, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." And if you're a child today with a disobedient spirit toward your parents, you only have a form of godliness, you're not godly. You are one of those that God describes that cause perilous times to come upon any generation. May I say further, to disobey your parents is to invite the sure judgment of Almighty God. To obey your parents is to bring the blessings of Almighty God.

Ephesians chapter 6, put this in your margin, verses 1 through 3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Did you hear it? "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." And then God quotes in the New Testament the command that we read in the Old Testament, "Honor thy father



and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;" when God gave the other commandments He gave a warning. But when God gave this commandment, God gave a promise. And what is the promise? "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." When a child learns to obey his or her parents, that child learns character and when a child learns character, there's something about character and well-being and health that go together.

And beside this, when a child obeys God then God goes forth to protect and to watch over that child and to watch over the land in which that child lives. There is the blessing, the protection of Almighty God. Perhaps you ought to put a sign in your child's bedroom on the wall, "Warning, disobedience to parents may be harmful for your health!" That's what God is saying, God said this is a promise. It is so plain. God says honor your father and your mother that it may be well with you, it is right. Again, God makes it very clear.

You say, "Well, what if my parents don't understand as much as I know?" That doesn't have a lot to do with it friend. God says, obey your parents. "Well, what if my parents command me to do something that's contrary to the Word of God? What if my parents tell me to steal, or what if my parents tell me to kill?" Well, that's so rare it hardly is worth mentioning. But obviously you know that the commandments of God supersede the commandments of your parents. And the Bible says in Ephesians 6:1, "Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Surely, sometimes you may have to choose between a command from Mom and Dad and a command from God, but that is so rare. God is saying that every child is to have the spirit of obedience to his or her mom or dad. And so put it down, number one, if you would honor your father and your mother, you obey them when you are young.

Now there comes a time when you must assume responsibility for yourself. And you are out from underneath those commands to obey. For when you grow up and get a house of your own and a home of your own, then the Bible says in Genesis 2 verse 24, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife." And you get a family with children that will obey you. And so you obey your parents when you are young.

But number two, you should **care for your parents when they are old**. Obey them when you are young, care for them when they are old. There's a very serious problem in America today. Do you know what it is? It is the elderly. And the elderly so many times are forgotten by their children. Hard hearted and selfish children. God commands that children are to take care of their elderly parents. They took care of us in spite of our faults, we must care for them now in spite of their faults. If we must carry them around, they carried us around. If we must now bathe them, they bathed us. If we must feed them, they fed us. If we must sacrifice for them, they sacrificed for us.

Did you know that there is no religious duty, no church work that is more important than taking care of your mom and your dad? I want to show you a very interesting passage of Scripture. Turn to Matthew chapter 15. We're talking about caring for your elderly parents. Matthew chapter 15, I begin to read in verse 3 on through verse 9. Jesus is talking to the religionist of His age and this is what He said to them, and He says it with a rebuke. "But He answered and said unto them, 'Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded,'" and now here's our same verse again, "'Honor thy father and mother': and, he that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.'" In the Old Testament, if you were to curse your mom or dad, you would have been stoned. "'But ye say, 'Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, 'It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest by profited by me;' and honor not his father or his mother, he shall be free.' Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 'This people draweth nigh unto



Me with their mouth, and honoreth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.””

Now what had happened was this, that the religionists of that day had said, “Listen, you can take the money that you ought to be giving to your parents, the money that ought to be used to support your elderly parents and you can take that and say you’re going to give it to the building fund or you’re going to give it to missions, or you’re going to give it to this thing or that thing, to some religious cause. And when you give that money to that religious cause, then you don’t have to take care of your parents.” You know what Jesus said? Jesus said, “That is the tradition of men.” And so here would be a father or a mother destitute. And here’s a very religious man going off to worship with his Bible in his hand, putting his offering in the church, but he did not take care of his father and his mother. “Are you saying, Pastor Rogers, are you saying therefore that I ought not to give to Bellevue anymore, I just simply ought to give it to my parents?” No, I’m not saying that at all. You obey God and give to God what belongs to God and give to your parents what belongs to your parents. God’ll help you to see. And don’t use one as an excuse for not doing the other. Neither excuses your faithfulness in either area.

But there were those in Jesus’ day who were royal hypocrites. They were not taking care of their father or their mother. If you’re a deacon in this church, if you’re a minister on this staff, if you sing in that choir and you have aged parents who need care and love and you don’t give it, Jesus said, “You are a hypocrite.” You’re a hypocrite. You’re to care for your parents. The Bible is so clear about this thing. As a matter of fact, the Bible says that if you don’t take care of your parents, you are worse than an infidel. You’d have to look up to see an infidel. You’re lower than an infidel.

Let me give you these Scriptures. First Timothy chapter 5 and verse 4, “But if any widow have children or nephew, let them learn first to shew piety at home,” that is the nephews or the children are to show to piety at home “and to requite their parents:” that means to take care of their parents, “for that is good and acceptable before God.” That’s First Timothy 5:4 and then in First Timothy chapter 5 verse 8 he says this, “But if any provide not for his own, specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, he is worse than an infidel.” He’s not even as good as an infidel. If he does not take care of his parents, this verse, when it says, “if any provide not for his own, specially those of his own household”, it’s not talking about parents providing for children; read it in it’s context. It’s talking about children providing for their elderly parents. How do we honor our father and our mother? We obey them when we are young. We care for them when they are old. Nothing could be more clear in the Word of God than this.

Now we have a generation today that has forgotten basic family values. Now here’s the third thing. Not only should we obey them when we are young and not only should we care for them when they’re old, but we should honor **them whether we are young or old**. I want to show you some Scripture. The Bible says again in Exodus chapter 20 verse 12, “Honor your father and your mother.” Now what does the word honor mean? The word honor actually at its root, literally means to attach weight to something. It has the idea of something being heavy. That is, your parents are not to be taken lightly. They are to be given honor.

I want to mention to you several ways that you can honor mom and dad. And I’d like for you to jot these down. First of all, by showing respect, by **showing respect**. Now jot these Scriptures down, don’t turn to them. We don’t have time, but I’ll share them with you. Leviticus 19 verse 3, “And ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father,” “Ye shall fear every man his mother and his father.” That does not mean to tremble in their sight. The Bible word means to have reverence, to have respect, never speak disrespectfully to your parents. Leviticus 20 verse 9, “For every one that curseth his father or his mother



shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him." In the Old Testament, under the theocracy, if a child were to curse his father or his mother it was a capital crime. God puts it in the Proverbs, in Proverbs chapter 30 and verse 17, "The eye that mocketh at his father or despiseth to obey his mother, the raven of the valley shall pick it out and the young eagles shall eat it." Oh how clear the Bible is. You say, "Well my parents are not worthy of respect." Only perfect children can demand perfect parents. Adolescence and middle age are both difficult times. Parents go through stages too, but you're to respect and honor your parents.

There is one thing in our family when our children were growing up that I would not tolerate, and that is disrespect and especially disrespect for their mom and dad. Especially disrespect for Joyce, for mother. I would not and I will not to this day, because I know what that woman has done for those children. I know how she sacrificed for them. I know how she went down into the valley of the shadow of death to bring them into this world. I have watched her pray and weep over those children. Never should a child be disrespectful to father or to mother.

Secondly, you can honor them by **expressing gratefulness**. Thank them! Learn the attitude of gratitude. Shakespeare was so right when he said, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child." Whoever your mother and father is, whatever they've done, they have done much for you. Thank them. Thank them. Thank them.

Thirdly, **listen to their counsel**. While you have your own home still learn the counsel of father or mother. I still listen to the counsel of my parents. My parents are wise. Your parents are wise in ways that you're not wise. Proverbs 1 verses 8 and 9. "My son, hear the instruction of thy father and forsake not the law of thy mother. For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head and chains about thy neck." You'll be amazed at how much your parents know. At 16 a boy thinks he's not too sure about his parents. At 18 he feels he's completely surpassed them. At 22, he feels that he's light years ahead of them. But at 30 he begins to understand they did know a few things. And when he gets to be about 40, he thinks they were perfect. That's right. It's amazing how much your parents; the older you get, the smarter your mom and dad gets, the older you get. You see, your parents have an advantage on you. You youngsters, listen to me. Here's the advantage your parents have and it's not primarily their gray matter; it is their experience. David said in Psalm 37 verse 25, "Once I was young now I am old." You can't say that. All you can say is, once I was young. But you see, they've seen both sides of life and they've had experiences that you don't have.

If we were taking a trip and we're going to go from Memphis to the West Coast, and let's suppose your parents started out a day or two ahead of you. They're driving in their car and you're coming along behind with your children in your car. And every so often they call back to give you instruction. They know where you're staying, what hotel you're staying in, what motels you're staying in and they just simply say, "And by the way, don't take route 60. They're tearing the thing up. It's there's a blockade there, you'll spend hours there. We spent all kinds of wasted time there because of construction." And then they're saying, "And oh yes, listen, we ate at thus and such a restaurant. It's wonderful." They could tell you that. "And don't fail to see this, it's beautiful." That doesn't mean they're smarter than you are friend. They have just been further down the road, been further down the road. That's all there is to it. David said, "Once I was young and now I am old," and if you're wise you'll hear the instruction of your father.

Now, let me tell you the fourth way that you can honor them. **By living a godly and a noble life**. You see, you are an extension of your father and your mother. Do you know what gives me great joy? When I sense that my parents are proud of me. When I sense that I give my mother a sense of gratefulness that I am her son. Or that my daddy can say, "He's my boy." Do you know what gives me great joy as a father?



To see my children, to see them live right. When I watch my children bless their children, my heart swells with joy. I thank God that I've got two sons in the ministry and I thank God that I've got two daughters who are godly mothers raising children for Christ. Do you know that gives me gratefulness, but that brings honor to my own life because they are an extension of my life.

Last of all and I must close. You can honor them by **showing love to them**. Oh how you ought to love your mom and dad; they gave you life. Their very blood flows through your veins. The love of your parents for you is the closest thing to the love of God known on this earth. Love your mama. Call her. Write that letter to your dad. Pay that visit. Give that gift. Do that deed of helpfulness. Put that love in shoe leather. Verbalize it. Vitalize it. Visualize it. And if you're going to do it, do it as quickly as you can. I've preached many, many funerals in my day and I've seen people try to make up for lost love at the funeral. Lost respect, lost honor, opportunities. My friend, dead noses smell no roses. You're going to do it, do it now. Honor your father and your mother.

A society is on its way down. It has lost the very rudiment of character when we have a generation of unruly young people who shoot out the lip to mother or father. That friend is a family value. Honor your father and mother that you can take to the bank. And may God one more time bring us back to a value that we can treasure, to honor our father and our mother.

Bow your heads in prayer. Father God, seal the message to our hearts and help us on this mother's day to honor our father and our mother and even those who have mothers in heaven may we today honor their memory. Now, while heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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