

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Honoring Father and Mother

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Exodus 20:12

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1787

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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) This 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 we have a rebellious spirit toward our parents, then we 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 or her parents.
  - d) Evangelist Dwight L. Moody once said that 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) When a child learns to obey his or her parents, that child learns character.
      - (2) 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) 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) We cannot say that.
        1. All we can say is that once we were young.
        2. Our parents have seen both sides of life, and they have had experiences that we 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