**Honor Your Father and Mother**

*Ephesians 6:1-3*

**Introduction**

1. **Ephesians 6:1-3** – Paul considers the relationship of the parents and their child.
	1. Children are the target audience of these verses. Even they have responsibilities before the Lord.
	2. **Obedience to parents, and honoring them is fundamental to pleasing God, and spiritual living.**
2. This command has implications for all people, and we would do well to obey it.
3. The Command
4. The Importance
	1. **Ephesians 6:1-2** – It is right to do so, and a foremost commandment.
		1. **(v. 1)** – It is right to obey, i.e. if it is ***“in the Lord”*** – something which is authorized by Christ. **This means it is wrong NOT to obey**:
			1. This would be for those children still in the home.
			2. **However, there is a more fundamental command given by God that extends even to adult children 🡪**
		2. **(v. 2)** – Children must honor their parents.
			1. **First** – foremost. ***(“This is the first and great commandment” Matthew 22:38*** – Jesus answering lawyer about the great commandment – Love God – **not first in chronology, but importance.**)
				1. No definite article in the Greek – better rendering, ***“which is A first (foremost) commandment with promise.”***
				2. PAUL IS STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMAND.
			2. **Honor** – *timaō*; to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere: — honor, value.
				1. **This is a perpetual commandment for life** – even when children grow old, and leave the home.

**Cf. Matthew 15:1-6** – Pharisees nullify God’s command to honor parents with tradition.

**Financial element** – when parents grow older, and need care from their children.

THE CHILD WHO HONOR’S, OR PRIZES THEIR PARENTS, WILL SHOW SUCH BY REACHING INTO THEIR OWN POCKET TO HELP.

**To neglect such duty suggests that your valuation of your parents is low.**

* + - * 1. **Obedience** – EVIDENCE of honor for parents from children.
	1. **Why? (why commanded, why important):**
		1. 5th of the 10 commandments – **cf. Exodus 20:1-17 (Deuteronomy 6:6-21).**
		2. **Division** – between vertical (man to God) and horizontal (man to man) commandments.
			1. Usually placed after the 4th – 1-4, vertical; 5-10, horizontal.
			2. **Consider – division after the 5th**
				1. Honoring parents is more of a vertical command (man to God) than a horizontal (having to do with neighbors – man to man).
				2. **Parents – representatives of God to children. 🡪**
			3. **Leviticus 19:1-3** – First mentioned after necessity of holiness as God is holy, and placed right before the command to keep the sabbaths.
				1. **It is necessary that we fear God** – accomplished by perfecting holiness, and obeying commands such as keeping the sabbath.
				2. **God has placed parents in a role of authority – obey them, as you would Him.**
				3. **Cf. Malachi 1:6** – God to Israel.
				4. **Cf. Hebrews 12:9** – Concerning discipline.
				5. **Cf. Luke 2:49-52** – JESUS – Did not fulfill His Father’s business without being a child subject to His physical parents.
				6. **ONE WHO DOES NOT HONOR THEIR PARENTS WILL NOT BE FOUND HONORING GOD.**
		3. **Thus, the severity of dishonoring parents:**
			1. **Exodus 21:15, 17** – Strikes/curses parents put to death. (*NOTE:* ***“curses”*** *– not only in word, but deed/manner of living*.)
				1. **Curses** – to be light. (***Declare somebody to be of light esteem – i.e. opposite of honor***.)
				2. **Cf. Leviticus 20:9** – His blood is upon him – i.e. it’s his own fault.
			2. **Proverbs 30:17** – ravens pick out eyes, eagles eat them.
			3. TO DISHONOR/DISOBEY PARENTS IS TO DISHONOR/DISOBEY GOD.
		4. **Thus, the blessing of honoring/obeying parents:**
			1. **Proverbs 1:8-9** – Ornament and chains.
			2. **Proverbs 6:20-23** – They will guide you through life.
	2. ***The importance of honoring parents is seen in the blessings bestowed in the promise which accompanies the command 🡪***
1. The Promise
	1. **Ephesians 6:3** – Honoring/obeying parents leads to wellness, and long life on earth.
		1. **GENERAL RULE** – there may be instances where this is not so (obedient children suffer, or disobedient children prosper), but those are exceptions.
		2. **RIGHTEOUS OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS CONDUCIVE TO LONGER LIFE (thus, so it is with obedience to parents):**
			1. **1 Timothy 4:8** – Godliness profitable for now and to come.
			2. **Proverbs 3:13-18** – There are great advantages for the one who seeks the wisdom and instruction of his parents.
			3. **One avoids great trouble by submitting to parents:**
				1. **Proverbs 1:10-19** – Escaping death by listening to the father’s instructions.
				2. **Proverbs 6:20-29** – In keeping from the evil woman. (*Sexual sins lead to STD’s and then death*.)

**(v. 29b – shall not be innocent) – More importantly, SPIRITUAL WELLNESS.**

***“having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).***

* 1. **The command in context of the Old Law (Paul phrased it slightly differently):**
		1. **Exodus 20:12** – That it may be well with you in the Canaan land…
		2. ***Honoring father and mother was necessary for subsequent generations to go on honoring God, thus, receiving His promises.***
		3. **Promises of God for Israel in Canaan land conditional:**
			1. **Leviticus 18:24-30** – Keep God’s statutes or else be vomited out. (In the middle of considering sexual purity…)
				1. The reason God was driving out the inhabitants of the Canaan land was for their ***“abominations.”***
				2. ***God’s law sanctified His people, but if they failed to honor/obey Him, they would be like the nations.***
				3. God would then cause the land to vomit them out.
			2. **Exodus 19:3-6** – Conditional from the beginning. ***(“IF”)***
			3. **If the Israelites did not honor parents, the generations who neglected such would not honor God, and God would repent from His promises concerning the Canaan land…**
		4. **Judges 2:7-10** – Another generation arose, and did not know the Lord.
			1. It may have been in part due to negligent parents.
			2. However, **verse 7** said they served the Lord.
			3. **Perhaps their children did not honor them, thus, grew to neglect honoring God.**
			4. **(vv. 11-15)** – Whatever it was, God delivered them to the nations.
		5. **“As goes the home, so goes the nation.”**
		6. **Consider: “AS GOES THE HOME, SO GOES THE CHURCH”**
			1. It is imperative that children honor parents so they will in maturation honor God.
			2. **The children will one day either assume the roles of leadership in the church, or fall away into the world…**
1. ***This command to honor parents is given to children. However, we would do well to realize there are obvious implications for others in the command… 🡪***
2. The Responsibilities
3. Children
	1. **Obey** – **Ephesians 6:1** – Children must be submissive, obeying their parents without answering back.
	2. **Honor** – **Ephesians 6:2** – *timaō*; to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon.
		1. Not a reluctant obedience, but loving obedience.
		2. **Honor is the form of love assumed toward those God has placed above us.**
		3. *Additionally, we see their value as God has placed them above us, and view their instruction in the same way* – **cf. Proverbs 1:8-9.**
	3. **Trust** – This is something a child must have for his parents as well.
		1. **Trust their judgments, and dealings with you as their child.**
		2. **Cf. Genesis 22:6-8** – Isaac’s question to Abraham when Abraham obeyed God’s command to offer him up.
			1. Abraham trusted God, and did as He commanded.
			2. **Isaac trusted his father, and did as He commanded.**
			3. **Such would naturally lead to trust in God.**
	4. **Children are not the only ones with responsibility in this command. 🡪**
4. Parents
	1. **To ask something of a child implies the parent gives something worth having.** (*Not that the child is to question such in the first place, but answers more toward the responsibility placed upon the parents in the relationship.*)
	2. **Ephesians 6:4** – Fathers are to give children spiritual nourishment.
		1. NOT ONLY fathers, but mothers as well.
		2. **However, FATHERS ARE PRIMARY IN THIS ROLE, AND MUST NOT ABDICATE THIS RESPONSIBILITY.**
	3. **Do not provoke children to wrath:**
		1. *All the dealings a parent has with a child, from instruction to discipline, should be* ***with the child’s well-being in mind****.*
		2. **Cf. Colossians 3:21** – Do not discourage your children.
		3. **Cf. 2 Corinthians 10:8** – EX: Paul to Corinthians – spiritual father with authority from the Lord – **FOR THEIR WELL-BEING (BUILDING THEM UP**) (*Same principle with parents to children*)
		4. **The actions taken as a parent toward the child should be to build up, not tear down.**
	4. **Bring them up in the training of the Lord:**
		1. **Training** – *paideia*; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction: — chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.
		2. More than teaching to obey – **remember, parents are God’s representatives in the home – SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT IS THE KEY.**
		3. **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 –** Look for, and take advantage of every opportunity to teach children of the Lord.
			1. This will not only lead to knowledge about particulars, **BUT WILL EMPHASIZE TO THE CHILD THAT LIFE IS ABOUT GOD 🡪**
			2. **(v. 5)** – Every fiber of our being should be dedicated to loving God.
				1. Does a parent show such in the rearing of their children?
				2. **EX: Extracurricular activities and worship service – sports, band, theatre, etc. Is it okay to miss worship service, gospel meetings, bible class for these things? (What about work???)**
				3. **DOES THE CHILD SEE THE PREEMINENCE OF RELIGION IN THE LIFE OF THE PARENT?**
		4. *When teaching a child, discipline will inevitably become necessary* – **cf. Hebrews 12:7-11** – CHASTENING IS NECESSARY.
			1. **(vv. 5-6)** – Chastening is an expression of love. (Your child may not understand initially, but you can explain it to him.)
			2. **(v. 11)** – It is not enjoyable for the child or parent, but necessary.
			3. ***“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him” (Proverbs 22:15)*** – Children need guidance, and correction when they in their immaturity are wrong.
			4. Sparing the rod not only spoils the child, but withholds needed love, and direction – ***“He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly” (Proverbs 13:24).***
			5. **A parent who refuses to discipline their kids is complicit in their sins:**
				1. **Cf. 1 Samuel 2:12, 17, 29; 3:13** – Hophni and Phinehas died because of their sins.
				2. Their father did not restrain them, and was said to have honored them above God.
				3. The judgment of Eli’s house was due to his failure to restrain his sons.
	5. **Bring them up in the admonition of the Lord:**
		1. **Admonition** – *nouthesia*; calling attention to.
		2. **Call their attention to their WRONG DOING, and WHAT THEY DO THAT IS RIGHT. (Direction, correction, and encouragement.)**
	6. ***“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6)*** – This should be the parents goal, and where their efforts are placed.
	7. **Children should be raised with the purpose of their existence in mind** – **cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** (*Prepare them for righteous living, for they will be judged!*)

**Conclusion**

1. Honoring parents is a foremost command.
2. How a child views, and treats his parents will translate to how he views and treats God.
3. Parents must understand the important position they are in, and execute the job God has placed in their trust.