

"Honor Your Father and Mother"

Exodus 20:12

To "honor" means to supporting financially.

I. Mothers and Fathers are provided for through the 5th commandment.

Exodus 20:12 — *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you."*

A. This commandment was given first to the adults.

1. The **target audience** were the adults:
2. "**Honor**" is a common word meaning "to hold in high regard".
3. The **promise** of a prolonged life in the land is given.

B. By extension, this commandment is passed down to children.

Ephesians 6:1–3 — *"¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³ so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."*

1. Children are learning how to honor their parents by how grandparent are being honored.

II. We are to honor our parents in their old age by making sure they are taken care of financially.

A. Jesus said that parental support comes ahead of gifts to the temple.

Matt. 15:4 *"For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.' ⁵ 'But you say, 'Whoever shall say to his father or mother, 'Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God,' ⁶ he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.*

1. Christian are to know that caring for parents comes before offerings to the church.

B. Supporting our parents reveals, more than anything else, our own genuine godliness.

1 Timothy 5:3-8 -*"Honor widows who are widows indeed; 4 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family, and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. 7 Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for **those of his household**, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.*

1. Context clearly indicates that "**those of his own household**" is referring to widowed parents (not referring to children).
2. Real godliness is taking care of our parents financially as they took care of us in our childhood.

III. Take specific actions that will enable us to follow through on this command:

A. Commit yourself to do whatever is necessary to take care of your parents in their old age.

B. Telling your parents of your commitment is important.

C. Be prepared to take care of your spouse's parents.

1. Wisdom would say to marry someone who has a love for your parents.

D. God's Promise: He will see your piety and pour blessings, provision and protection in your direction.

Think, Pray and Obey:

1. Commit yourself right now to God to keep the 5th commandment.
2. This Mother's Day, tell her you will take care of her.
3. Thank God this morning for the parents that gave us life.

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