



DEALING WITH PARENTS

Exodus 20:12

The Lord - *"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."* (Exodus 20:12)

- ***What have you learned about "family life" over the years from watching television shows about families or from being a part of one?***
- **Many families seem to have more good times than bad times, but the good times are often a result of families dealing with and working through their issues.**
- **Many families are being devastated by addictions, bitterness, criticisms, divorce, envy, financial issues, greed, hurt, immorality - and a lack of respect for parents.**
- The Lord - *"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."* (Exodus 20:12)
- **God gave us this 5th Commandment because:**
 - **Honoring Parents is a good thing to do, even when they're not perfect**
 - **Respect for authority is a key to success in life, and developing that practice begins in the home**
 - **The "nuclear family" is the basic building block of society**
 - **We learn from good family relationships how to have good relationships with others in the world and in the family of God**
 - **Our relationship with our parents affects our other life relationships**
- ***What steps can we take to comply with and benefit from this Commandment?***

Complying With This 5th Commandment Involves:

CLARIFYING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

- **Fathers and mothers have made our existence possible, and while we didn't have a choice concerning our parents they didn't get much of a choice with us either.**
- **No matter what we've gone through with our parents, our existence is not an accident.**
- ***"Thank you (God) for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous - and how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."*** (Psalm 139:14-16)

- When a person becomes a parent they take on big responsibilities.

Being A Parent Is:

- **AN EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- “Fathers . . . bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)
- **Parents are to be the primary educators of their children when it comes to learning principles and practices that will help them to live healthy lives.**
- “Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

- **AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them.” (Ephesians 6:4)
- **Parents have a responsibility to love their children unconditionally and give them emotional support.**
- “Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.” (Colossians 3:21)
- **What our children become emotionally, to a great extent, will be what we as parents engrave on their psyches.**

- **A FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8)
- **The Lord has no tolerance for adults who don’t seek to provide for their children.**

- **A SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- Moses - “You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
- **Parents owe their children godly examples, loving encouragement and Biblical instruction.**
- **The principles that help children learn to live strong and successful lives are found in the Bible, the “Book of Life.”**

Complying With This 5th Commandment Involves:

COMMITTING TO HONOR OUR PARENTS

- The Lord - “Honor your father and mother.” (Exodus 20:12)
- **In what ways can and should we honor our Parents and comply with this commandment?**

We Honor Our Parents By:

- **OBEYING THEM WHEN WE ARE IN THEIR HOME**

- “Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.” (Ephesians 6:1)
- “You children must always obey your parents, for this is what pleases the Lord.” (Colossians 3:20)

- **“Obey” means to comply with our parents' words and wishes willfully, pleasantly and immediately.**
- *“Jesus returned to Nazareth with them (his parents) and was obedient to them...And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.”* (Luke 2:51-52)
- **RESPECTING THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE**
 - “To respect is to hold in high esteem or special regard, to be very much concerned about a special person.” (*Webster’s Dictionary*)
 - ***Does respect characterize the way we talk to, listen to and respond to our parents?***
 - **Most children move through four stages with their parents: they idolize them, demonize them, utilize them, and humanize them.**
- **APPRECIATING THEM WHEN WE CAN**
 - **We need to learn to appreciate the efforts and sacrifice of our parents.**
 - *“Always giving thanks . . . for everything. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ”* (Ephesians 5:20-21 NIV)
- **FORGIVING THEM WHEN THEY LET US DOWN**
 - *“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”* (Colossians 3:13)
 - **We must be willing to forgive our parents for the mistakes they’ve made and the hurt they’ve caused in our lives.**
 - Jesus - *“Forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”* (Mark 11:26)
- *“The father of godly children has causes for joy. What a pleasure it is to have wise children. So give your parents joy!”* (Proverbs 23:24-25)
- **God gave us this 5th Commandment because: 1) Honoring Parents is a good thing to do, even when they’re not perfect, 2) Respect for authority is a key to success in life, and developing that practice begins in the home, 3)The “nuclear family” Is the basic building block of society, 4) We learn from good family relationships how to have good relationships with others in the world and in the family of God, and 5) Our relationship with our parents affects our other life relationships.**
- **The Lord has also given us this Commandment because His blessings are tied to how we “honor our Parents.”**
- *“If you honor your father and mother, things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”* (Ephesians 6:3)