

Title: Honor Your Father and Mother

Passage: Exodus 20:12

Summary:

The Fifth Commandment:

1. Teaches us about God's character
2. Points out our sinfulness.
3. Directs us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. Teaches us how to live freely.

Key Truths:

- Honoring your parents means to give parents the recognition they deserve for their God-given authority.
- To honor is to respect, value, and prize fathers and mothers as gifts from God.
- Through this commandment, God shows Himself that He values human life and family relationships
- Also know that God is one of order and structure and rewards submission to authority.
- In God's mercy and sovereignty, God has given you the parents you have.

Application:

- Parents: God worked it purposely for you to be a parent. It is your responsibility to be the first discipler of your child(ren).
- Children: Speak respectfully to your parents. Obey all the way, right away, and with a happy heart.
- Young adults: include your parents in major decisions in your life. Involve their counsel.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What does it mean to "honor your father and mother"?
- How does this commandment and promise hold true today?
- What can you do to improve or strengthen your relationship with your parents?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

The Ten Commandments

- generally divided in two groups:
 - One: vertically to God
 - One: horizontally with others

Mark 12:28-31

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Parent-child relationship

- Foundational to our lives
 - Where we learn about authority
 - Our first hospital and school and home
- Augustine: "if anyone fails to honor his parents, is there anyone he will not spare?"

Passage:

Exodus 20:12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

EXPOSITION

The Purpose of the Ten Commandments:

1. Teach us about God's character
2. They point out our sinfulness.
3. They direct us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. They teach us how to live freely.

I. THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER

What do we see in Fifth Commandment?

“Honor your father and your mother,

A. God shows Himself that He values human life and family relationships

Context of Passage:

- Israelites coming out of slavery after 400 years.
- People would devalue the family and break up those bonds. People would fight for each other for survival.

- This commandment was given to adult people (not merely children).
 - Culture: people did not care for their elderly parents

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

John 19:26-27 (Jesus' example)

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Matthew 15:4-5

For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God,"

"Honor"

- weightiness

"Honor parents"

- Give parents the due weight of their role.
- to give parents the recognition they deserve for their God-given authority.
- To honor is to respect, value, and prize fathers and mothers as gifts from God.

Implications

Parents

- to be a parent is a weighty thing.
- God worked it purposely for you to be a parent.
- It is your responsibility to be the first discipler of that child (not school or even the church)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way,

and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Parents are to disciple their children to know God.

Contrast

- Wordly culture abdicates parenting to schools where many give up their children to be trained by liberal-minded educators who reject God.
- Many fail to teach children to respect authority.
- Having a relationship with a child without rules is not loving.

Proverbs 13:24

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the LORD'S discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Revelation 3:19

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Qualities of an elder/deacon:

- children respect their parents.

1 Timothy 3:12

Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.

Children

- Obedience to parents is not a trivial thing
- Main means by which God teaches us about Him even when we do not fully understand why.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 (A Rebellious Son)

"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, then his father

and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Leviticus 20:9

For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him.

- the standard of obedience is very high.
- It is critical for one to learn obedience and submission to authority as they learn and relate to God accordingly.

B. God is one of order and structure and does not prompt anarchy but rewards submission to authority.

- Jesus submits to His Father. The Three Persons have different roles (not different in value)
- the family invented by God reflects the Fatherhood of God.

that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

- Our relationship with our parents affect other areas of our lives.
 - Not limited to only the parent-child relationship itself.

“Honor your father and your mother

- both father and mother are to be honored.
- Same level of respect and honor for both.

II. THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT POINTS OUT OUR SINFULNESS.

- After the Fall, see brokenness of families with children disobeying their parents.
- We are rebellious by nature.
- Disobeying parents comes natural to us.
- The doctrine of original sin is real and critical in our lives. We are inherently sinful and have sinful desires in our heart.
 - Contrast: culture elevates human desires where we are merely animals with natural instincts where merely need to guide and follow them.

- Contrast: in essence, the human being is good so we are merely to guide others to follow their instincts.

III. THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT DIRECTS US TO CHRIST AND THE NEED WE HAVE FOR HIM.

- It is impossible to keep this commandment to perfection.
 - Have you ever spoken ill of them?
 - Have you always given them the care they deserve?
- Disobedience to parents is placed on same level as other serious sins.

Romans 1:28-32

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

- Disobedience to parents deserves death.
- Have you ever disobeyed your parents?
 - Then you are under eternal judgment.

In light of our sinfulness, we realize the forgiveness and hope we have is in Christ.

- Because of Christ's righteousness, then God treats us as if we always have obeyed our parents/all commandments.

IV. THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT TEACHES US TO LIVE FREELY.

Application

Children:

- Speak respectfully to your parents.
- Obey all the way, right away, with a happy heart.
 - In light of failure to do so, then recognize your need for Jesus.
 - Ask God for a changed heart.
- If don't obey parents, then will have hard time obeying any other type of authority. It will affect your life.
- Trust your parents: they have your best interest in heart.
- Even if have difficult parents: this commandment applies as long as their directions are not sinful.

- How you reflect Christ is how you honor your parents.

Young Adult:

- include your parents in major decisions in your life. Involve their counsel.
- Even though not under their roof, they still have your best interests at heart.
- In God's mercy and sovereignty, God has given you the parents you have.
 - See example of Jonathan
 - Even though Saul became a madman and wanted to hurt David, Jonathan never spoke ill of his father.

Adults

- You still have a responsibility to honor your parents.
 - Contrast: culture encourages cutting ties with parents.
 - While there may be circumstances where need to set boundaries, we are still called to honor them.
- What if parents have hurt you deeply?
 - Need to learn to forgive otherwise the bitterness will eat you up.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.