

# Honor Your Father and Mother

Pray again. We do turn our eyes to you, Jesus, and we want you to help us through your Holy Spirit, to become more like you. Use your Word to make us more like you. Speak to our hearts, comfort us, convict us, conform us. We pray this in Jesus name and all God's listening people said, amen. Amen.

If you have a Bible, open with me. In Exodus chapter 20. Exodus, chapter 20. We continue our journey through the Ten Commandments. And today we are in the fifth commandment, studying the fifth commandment.

And before I jump into it, I just want to maybe share with you that throughout the centuries, theologians and commentators have looked at the Ten Commandments, and they divided them in two groups. The first four that have to do with our relationship with God, and then the next six that have to do with our relationship with others. And it's not only commentators and theologians have done that. Actually, Jesus himself seems to almost allude to the same thing. If you remember, at one point there's an incident where Jesus is asked by someone, "What is the greatest commandment?"

And Jesus response is kind of in a dual way. He says, "Love the Lord your God with all your soul, your heart, your mind, your strength." And what does it say next? "Love your neighbor as yourself." So it seems that Jesus himself has looked at the Ten Commandments and saw this duality to it, that it has two areas, God and others.

Now, if the first commandment, which has to do with the fact that there's no other gods, only one God, is kind of the foundation for the first four commandments and our relationship with God, the next series, the next six commandments that have to do with our relation with others have the fifth commandment as the basics, as the basis, excuse me, and the foundation for the next six. In other words, the way you relate to your parents, the way you relate to your family implies or actually affects every other relationship in your life. Very interesting. The way you relate to your parents and the authority they are given over you will affect and impact the way you relate with everyone else in your life.

That's a very important point. Augustine, who was a famous Christian theologian who lived 1500 years ago, he emphasized the importance of the fifth commandment by asking a rhetorical question. And here's this question. If anyone fails to honor his parents, is there anyone he will spare? If he fails to honor his parents, is there anyone he will spare?

Presumably not, because the relationship between parent and child is the first and primary relationship, the beginning of all human society. And under normal circumstances, the first people a child knows are his parents. And as someone pointed out, God intends the family to be our first hospital, to be our first school, to be our first government, and to be our first church.

Now, as I say this, I realize that some of you have had some really horrific experiences at the hands of your parents. And when you come to this commandment, you're experiencing a lot of hurt and anxiety over maybe some really bad memories that you have from your childhood. And I like to ask you to allow God's word to comfort you, encourage you in the midst of your hurt from your past. I cannot imagine and understand some of your experiences, but I would like to ask you to allow God's spirit to come alongside you and show you God's design for family and how this should work or could work. Now, with this in mind, I want us to read Exodus, chapter 20 verse 12, where we find this fifth commandment.

Listen to God's word. Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Honor your father and your mother. Now, as we look at this commandment, I want us to look through the grid of four things. I actually pointed this out in the first two sermons, and I said

that each one of these commandments are given to the Jewish people as they're coming out from the wilderness or actually coming out from Egypt into the wilderness.

They're given for several reasons. One is, God wants to show something of His character to each one of these commandments. Second, He wants to point out their weaknesses and their sinfulness, including ours today. Thirdly, He wants to point them to the Messiah the need for a Savior. They need someone to rescue them from the penalty of not abiding by these commandments.

It shows their limitations, their dependency on God. And fourthly, these ultimately are meant to teach them how to live freely. And I said this, that the Ten Commandments are not meant to be prison bars. They're more like traffic laws. They're not meant to keep you away from happiness, from living life, and actually help you to live life as God designed it.

So with that in mind, I want us to approach each one of these areas. First, what does this fifth commandment teach us about God's character? What does it teach us about God's character? Several things. First, it teaches us that God, the God of the Bible, the true God, Yahweh, is the God who values human life, family relationships.

The God of the Bible is a God who values human life and family relationships. Why do I say human life? Because you have to remember context. So this was given to a people who have spent 400 years, most of which most likely they were enslaved. 400 years of enslavement.

They were treated like trash. And in Egypt and in ancient times, when you call talk slavery, we're not talking here about the biblical mindset. We're talking here about these people who are treated worse than cats. Cats, for example, were seen as gods and goddesses in Egypt. Not only that, but there was no distinction of family. You have to work and meet your quota. If you remember, at one point, Moses goes to Pharaoh to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. And what does Pharaoh say? Oh, you wanted to go worship. I'm going to increase your quota.

So apparently they had all these quotas to meet. And at one point that means that they were survival of the fittest. If you were aged or you were sick, you probably had to fend for yourself because again, that was the environment. You might say, Andrei, that's a little bit far fetched. Actually, there's things and situations nowadays in a 21st century where these things happen.

I read some accounts from people who were in labor camps in North Korea. And in North Korea, if you know there's a dictatorship, a kind of communistic rulership, and if you are against the regime or you're a Christian, they take you, your children and your grandchildren, your entire family, up to like fourth degree of relationship. And one of the things they work hard to do, and this is horrific to read, but they tried to disband the family. They want you to not love your family as much as you love the government and the dictator. And in order for them to do that, what they try to do is to put all these quotas in to give you rations that at one point makes you hate your family because you want to steal from their rations to survive.

That's been, by the way, the strategy of Satan all throughout. They want you to love government or love other things than your family more than you would, as I said, more than you love your family relations, your parents. Now, going back to this situation here in Egypt, they were probably treated like that. Older people were on their own. And I also want to say this, this commandment is given to adult children, to adult people. We treat this as if this is for children. But if you look at the context, you see that God earlier on said, don't do carved images. I cannot see kids just building carved images to worship. Or later on it says, do not commit adultery, do not kill. That's not for kids, that's for adults.

That means that probably God wants to tell these people, the Jews, that they need to treat their elderly, their parents, in a different way. They need to care for them. They need to honor them, to respect them, to provide for them. Proverbs 23:22. "Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old."

Despise doesn't just mean don't listen to her. It means not caring for her, not being interested in her. Honoring father and mother means making them a priority. It means loving them and appreciating them. It means caring for them to the very end of their life.

In the New Testament, Paul encourages Timothy to teach the church in Ephesus to care for their household. First 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." Again, he's thinking here about providing for, most likely for the parents, because there's no pension system, there's no Social Security. As bad, as good as that is in America, there's nothing like that. Children are your pension. They are the ones supposedly to provide for you.

Jesus, our ultimate example. When He's on the cross, He looks to John, if you remember, with His last breath. And He looks to John and looks at Mary and His mom and says, John, this is your mother now. You take care of her. You need to provide for her.

Watch out for her. We live in a culture where barely half of Americans think that children have a responsibility to care for elderly parents. This is based on surveys. Many children abandon their parents or treat them with disrespect. God encourages us to honor our parents and care for them and show them respect, because at a minimum, they are made in the image and likeness of God, and we need to care for them as such, as image bearers of God.

Actually, Jesus has another encounter with the Pharisees. At one point, he's accusing them of disobeying this commandment. In Matthew 15:4-5, for instance, Jesus says, "God says, honor your father and mother, and anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death." But you say, this is to the Pharisees. It is all right for people to say to their parents, sorry, I cannot help you, for I vow to give to God what I would have given to you.

What He's saying is that the Pharisees say, hey, as long as you're bringing your offerings to the temple, it's fine. Even it's good. For you to take from parents and not caring for them and giving the temple meaning to them. Because the Pharisees ultimately are the beneficiaries. And He says God is not interested in your gifts. First and foremost, care for your own household, make sure that your parents are settled and they're taken care of, and then take care of God's things. Very interesting because ultimately God's things are related to your family.

Another thing that the Jews are meant to learn about God is that the God of the Bible is a God of order and structure, who doesn't promote anarchy and who actually rewards submission to authorities. A God of order. Now I'm not sure if you paid attention, but our universe is pretty orderly, it's not chaotic. And if you are in the world of physics and mathematics, you know that those are sciences that are pretty precise. There's no just lone range atoms over there in the universe.

Everything is just such organized, fine tuned. Same with relationships. Even in the Trinity, by the way, especially since the Incarnation, we are finding out that Jesus is the right and of the Father. He submits to the Father. They're equal in authority and value, dignity, worth. They're God.

But there's different roles. There is a relationship of submission from the Son to the Father. Then the Holy Spirit serves both.

Going back to this commandment, it's important to understand what the word honor means. What it means in Hebrew is the word "kabad," which literally means heavy or weighty. It's the word that the Old Testament uses for the glory of God, the weightiness of His Divine majesty. In other words, then to honor one's parents therefore is to give due weight to their position. It is to give them the recognition they deserve for their God given authority.

To honor is to respect, to value and prize fathers and mothers as gifts from God. Let me say that again. To honor your parents means to give them the recognition they deserve for their God given authority. And to honor is to respect, value and prize fathers and mothers as gifts from God. Now this has two implications. Implications for parents and implications for children. The implication for parents is that this is a very weighty responsibility. It's a very weighty responsibility. To be given the title of father or mother is to be designated with an office of great significance. And if you have a child, whether you plan for it or not, God intended for you to be a parent.

And your responsibility is to raise the child. It's not the responsibility of the society, of the government, of the school, or not even the church. It's your responsibility primary. First and foremost, yes, all the other things, entities, come alongside you, but you're primarily responsible for raising your child. Deuteronomy chapter 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, all your soul, 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. You 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 frondless between your eyes. You should write them on the doorposts of your house and your gates."

It's our responsibility. This is directed to parents. And actually, on this note, it's important to point out that one of the reasons why we find ourselves in a culture where anarchy is celebrated and college campuses are protesting for anarchy and for defunding the police and usurping of any traditional instruction, including the institution of marriage as we know it. One of the reasons why we have them is because we have abdicated our responsibility to train our kids and we have our responsibility over to liberal college professors who most of them are Godless.

Furthermore, we have failed to discipline our kids in a godly way and to teach them submission to authority and to parents. And we try to befriend them. That's a new trend I've heard in the last two decades. We want to be friends with him now. Listen to a letter that the guy wrote on the Internet to his son that created a lot of uproar.

A lot of people criticize him for this. Listen to what he says. This is a dad to his son. "Dear son, as long as you live under this roof, you will follow the rules in our house. We don't have a democracy. I didn't campaign to be your father and you didn't vote for me. Sure enough, we're father and son, by the grace of God, I consider it a privilege and I accept their responsibility. In accepting it, I have an obligation to perform the role of a father. I'm not your pal. The age difference makes such a relationship impossible. We can share many things, but you must remember that I'm your father. This is a hundred times more meaningful than being a pal. You will do as I say as long as you live in this house. You are not to disobey me because whatever I ask you to do is motivated by love. This may be hard for you to understand at times, but the rule holds. You understand perfectly when you have a child of your own. Until then, trust me. Love, dad."

What a great letter. Isn't it? We need more dads like this. And unfortunately the Internet said no. This is so harsh. Again, we get it. You cannot have rules without the relationship. Rules with our relationship leads to rebellion.

We get that. But you cannot have relationship without rules. Not a meaningful one, not one that is designed by God to actually raise your child in the ways he needs to go. If your response might be, Andrei, that's so harsh, man. You're from Eastern Europe. You have a different perspective. You're a little bit, you know, no offense, man. You're coming from more liked part of the world.

Okay, let's look what the Bible says. Proverbs 13:24, "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." If you love your child, you need to discipline them. Don't spare the rod. Proverbs 3, verses 11 and 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.

And you might say, Andrei, that's just Old Testament, man I really like the words of Jesus. Do you have something from Jesus? All the words of the Scriptures are words of Jesus. But just for your sake, you like the Red Letter Bible, stuff like that.

Revelation 3:19 "This is Jesus speaking, Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline. So be zealous and repent." This is from Jesus mouth. By the way, one of the main qualifications for someone to be eligible to be a pastor or a church leader of sorts, or ultimately to be a mature believer. First Timothy 3, Titus 1 is someone who manages his household well and his kids are obedient to him.

If this criteria would truly be applied in churches, how many pastors would not be qualified to be pastors? And I said earlier that this has an implication not only for parents, but also for the kids. It's a weighty responsibility, but it's also a weighty command for kids. We need to understand the weightiness of this command. This is the main means through which God teaches us about him.

And submitting to authority even when we don't fully understand why. Of course we shouldn't submit to our parents if they tell us to sin. We get that. The New Testament actually says this in Ephesians, chapter 6. Submit and obey your parents in the Lord. Do things that they are according to God's Word. But other than that we need to obey.

And we need to obey it right away, all the way, with the happy heart as I tell my kids. Right away, all the way with a happy heart. And a critical thing is that younger the kid less explanations he needs to have in regards to why they need to obey. There's a trend in the last several decades where parents feel that they need to have explanations to why they're telling their kids certain things. A kid will always ask the question why? Why? And I see this trend of like I just need to talk and talk with a three year old and try to explain to him why having ice cream after 9 o'clock is not good for him. And he lists him, but why, but why, but why? And you're actually buying into this. He's just biting you and you're hooked.

Then he's trying to see if you go for it. And some parents do because that's what they're told out there. There's a new trend, gentle parenting and talk to them, befriend them, all this stuff. And there's another one. Don't make me count to three.

Oh, good luck with that. You're going to get to 25. It's still in the same position. If you start the route good luck. It's actually very unhelpful for many ways.

First of all, it's not working. Second, it's actually dangerous. Can you imagine him being in the middle of the street, your kid and you start counting to three or he says one two by the time he gets to three, he's not there anymore. Because you taught him wrongly. Where did you get these ideas from?

Where do we get them? You know where we get them from. The experts. How about God's Word? As they're young and they ask you why you have to simply say to them, because I said so.

That's it. It's very simple. God made me your parent and you're my child. You do it now. As they grow older, they can understand more and you can give them more explanations.

But the heart should be always a submissive heart. Like what is it like if you tell them, you're reasoning with them so you shouldn't eat ice cream. Why? Because if you eat ice cream so you're actually trying to explain to them why they should obey you. Obedience is pretty much in a sense based on their own understanding of whether you're right or not.

Where's that coming from? A three year old, they don't even know if Mickey Mouse is real or not. And you're trying to argue with them. Why certain things? Because there's studies out there.

I see parents going and trying to tell their kids their studies. Things like, are you crazy? What happened with you? You buy into this ideas and philosophies. They're not biblical and actually not helpful to you, not helpful to them, not helpful to anyone.

Again, God's word is very clear. You need to obey right away, all the way, with a happy heart. Unless your parents tell you to do something sinful, of course. Now let me give you some verses in the Bible in regards to how important is for God that the child obeys his parents. Because sometimes we kind of take it a little bit lightly.

And yes, it can apply for younger and older kids. Deuteronomy, chapter 21, verses 18 to 21. 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 of 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. Pause here. Most likely he was an adult here, more adult kid. 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 in fear.

This is no joke. Leviticus 9:29. 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.

He says. God says, if this kid doesn't listen to his parents, he's not going to listen to anyone else. He's a danger to our society. Now, I don't know if the Jews ever applied these laws, but you see the standards, how high they are. This is serious. Don't play games with this.

In the context, God is encouraging children to honor their parents by listening to them. And this is critical because kids don't listen. They don't do the things that their parents done. How did Israel get into the place where they were, where they forgot about God? Because they didn't listen to their parents and their parents didn't take it seriously to say, hey, you need to listen.

You need to actually pay attention. We need to abide by God's laws. This is not optional. This is mandatory. Now, of course, you cannot force your kids to follow God, but they need to know at least God's Word.

They need to hear. And kids need to listen. If they don't listen, they're in trouble. And kids don't listen because mom and dad, come on, that's the old story. They don't really know what the new things are around. That was things with Abraham and Jacob and Isaac. Who cares about those stuff? And we have new technology, we have new gods, we have new stuff today. Mom, you can see that. That's the same mindset that the Jews had thousands of years ago.

We have the same mindset today. You're old school. You don't know what you're talking about. I know better now. I have my TikTok, I have my podcast, I have my experts. I have all this stuff. Mom and dad, what do you know about raising kids? You just raised few. That was years ago. We reinvented the whole thing. Did you listen to Oprah? The new thing that they have, it's a new thing. You listen to that guy and that girl. All experts, they reinvent the wheel and man, it's looks so different. That's pretty much the attitude through the centuries.

And God says, "That's not right." Now what's the promise if you honor your parents? It's an interesting statement that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Now, the people in the Old Testament knew that this doesn't mean necessarily that you're going to live long, that you obey more your parents. You're going to have ten more years to your life.

You're going to be 100 years. That means that people who live 100 years, they mean they honor their parents. It doesn't mean that most commentators, theologians, they all agree that this means that you're living a life that is full of God's blessing. You live a life full of life, full of the things that God promised, especially full of peace and harmony. And by the way, if you haven't made peace with your parents, there's something that's going to eat at you all your life.

You cannot enjoy the things of life because you're still having something lingering in the back of your mind and heart. And you can put it off, you can get it dormant, but it's not dormant. It impacts and affects everything in your life. By the way, there are studies out there, just very interesting. Josh McDowell wrote a book years ago based on a study that is done, I don't know which John Hopkins or another one of those big universities has done this study for over 30 or 40 years in which they prove that the relationship, or lack of relationship you had specifically with your dad, with your family, altogether impacts up to 90% of the decisions you have in your life, including your health problems.

They're tracing even your heart issues, incredible, to the relationship you had with your parents. In a sense makes sense because you're always under stress, you're under this guilt that you cannot put to peace. You don't have peace and harmony because you never made peace and harmony with your parents. Another thing that I observed this week was very interesting. Now you might say, Andrei, it's obviously there it is, but I didn't think about it in the context.

It says honor father and mother, which for us is not a big deal because we think, of course, but in ancient times, this is without precedent. It's unparalleled to have mother and father at the same level. Because women were not seen as first class citizens. They were actually not mentioned in almost no laws in any other ancient times. But God puts high value on women. Actually, he values them as high as men and mothers as high as fathers. This is also very important because in families, sometimes mothers are the ones that are having a harder time to be respected, especially if you're in the homeschool world or maybe more around your kids. And dads are usually the ones who have more say. And I want to encourage dads to help your wife by making sure that your kids respect and honor your wife and their mom.

It is our duty. Yes, of course, kids respond differently to each one of us. But ultimately we have this duty to make sure that our home has this umbrella of respect, especially sons towards mothers. It's always a tricky thing.

Another thing that I want to point out this morning is not only that this law points to God's character, but this law also points to our sinfulness, our sinfulness. Actually, ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin, even their kids were not in a good relationship with them. And you see at one point in the first books of Genesis where God wants to do a redo with Noah and his kids. And one of the first things that one of Noah's sons does is dishonors his dad. This is a sin that has been around for a long time.

People are prone to this. Regardless of our background. We are born with a nature that doesn't want to obey. We are rebellious by nature. And by the way, that includes even those little angels in the nursery or in the toddler room.

I promise you they will show their true colors soon enough. Just wait to disobey parents comes natural to us. And this is so important for parents to understand and for kids to understand this as well, because let's assume that your kids is on the playground or at home or at school, and you find out that your child does something bad or they disobey. What I see in the last few years, last decade, is that the tendency is always to blame someone else because your kid is pretty good. It has to be either your parental techniques and you're looking for scrambling to find other parental technique, or you're trying to find a scapegoat.

It's that kid and that parent and or maybe the other kids or something, some environmental situation. But it's never your kid because your kid is so good. He's such a sweet kid. He's sweet, but he's sinful. And you have to remember this. Yes, can we sometimes exasperate our kids through our parenting? Yes. And we need to do

better at that. We need to learn how to do that. Yes, sometimes their sin can be enhanced by other kids on the playground or by the environment, or maybe they are tired or maybe they're, they're hungry.

We get that. But ultimately their sin comes from within them. It's a problem of heart that's so critical because this doctrine of original sin and the need for parenting is critical because in the last 150 years, we have been heavily influenced by other beliefs and other philosophies. We're told that human beings are just evolved animals. And ever since Charles Darwin published his findings, a lot of other people have used these ideas in their own fields. For example, Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, if you're familiar with them, they are the forefathers of psychology 130 years ago or so.

They put the basics or the basis and the foundations for psychology. And in their world, they would say, no, humans are good. The problem is with either environment or influences. And what you need to do in counseling through psychology, you need to encourage them to find their true self. You be your true self, and this has made its way into the modern world.

You go to psychology and you can debate me if you want to, if you're in the world of psychology. But this is what I've seen through my studies. I've done specific studies on this world of psychology. In world of psychology, the paradigm is totally different than the Bible. The paradigm starts with, a human being is good and just the other stuff in his life are wrong.

But this is totally different than the Bible. The Bible starts with, human beings are sinful and all these other problems, yes, they can enhance your sin, but ultimately you're responsible to how you respond to outside sin in your own life. You cannot blame someone else for you being angry. It's your response that is filled with anger. And yes, you can remove those people in your life that make you angry, but ultimately it's your problem. Because Jesus had people who were angry against him. He did not respond that way. And other Christians in other parts of the world. So the problem is within.

And you go to a psychologist and he'll tell you, hey, you are here to, I mean, I'm just here to help you out and ask questions. They don't give you advice necessarily. They are not allowed to tell you what to do because they're liable for being sued. And \$200 later, after an hour later, you're no better off.

I know that some of you are in the psychological world. You feel like I'm minimizing it. But think about it through the big paradigm and you might ask the question, Andrei, but what do you ask us to do because we cannot be religious. Actually, you are religious without realizing Freud and Jung are religious. They tell you they don't believe in God. And this is a paradigm and you're just following it. And what I'm telling you is God made a different paradigm and tell you, hey, all the suffering and all the problems and all the things you have in this world are meant to bring you back to God. It's not meant to have a band aid on you because the band aid is not going to solve your problem. But the same with parenting and children, again, if we start with the premise that they are good kids who just need a little bit of help, then we are actually doing them a huge disservice because it's not biblical. They need Christ, they need the Gospel.

And you have to understand that as you're parenting, because you sometimes with just parent behavior, and it's important the parent behavior, the behavior will actually frustrate the child. If you only parent behavior because you get to a child who says, Dad, Mom, I cannot do what you're asking me to do. And if you are just keep pressing and pressing instead of telling them, hey, I understand why you cannot do it because I cannot do it either. You need Jesus. If you don't do that and you give them the gospel, you are just exasperating them. You need to point them to Christ.

And by the way, this idea of Jung and psychology, it infiltrated other things. By the way, Karl Marx, who was also a believer of the fact that we are just evolved from animals who wrote the Communist Manifesto and he with Freud. It's interesting.



There's all this combine things. They are both Freud and Marx were against the traditional family. They didn't want family to come in because they knew that families are religious and they didn't want any religion. That's why they came up with a strategy. Then they said Marx specifically in his Communist Manifesto, he says, we want to have kids in government education since they are two or three, so we can educate them what we want them to be educated.

And there's a lot of socialistic, communistic political societies out there that having or governments that embrace this. And they tell you cannot teach your kids what you want them to be taught. And even countries like Germany, for example, homeschooling is totally forbidden. You're going to go to jail if you do it. You cannot keep your kid home.

If it's past two years old. You have to tell him, send him half day at school to be taught whatever they want you to teach. Where is this mentality coming from? It's all from this stuff. And you can trace it down and you can see guys who were early students of Freud, or Barnes.

They made their way into what is called the Frankfurt School of Thought in Germany. Those guys were exiled from Germany during Hitler's times. And they started coming and putting their writings into the American academia. And all of those guys are the ones that we hear about critical race theory and wokeism. That's where those ideas come from, from these guys.

And you might say, Andrei, you're kind of putting them all together. Actually, I don't if you've seen, for example, Black Lives Matter when it came about, they put 13 guiding principles on their website. And among them was, we are against a traditional family. We don't believe that parents are the ones responsible for their kids the government is.

And then they mixed all the other stuff. A person is not evil. A person has to follow their instincts and do whatever they want. They're all in there. And they took it out because there was so much uproar. And the people who founded Black Lives Matter, they would say, yes, we're trained Marxists. This is not me making this up. You can just look it online if you think it's just out there. Andrei. No, it's not.

It's in the academic world. It's what you're infiltrating. And a lot of it makes its way even in churches that's worse. And we're just oblivious to it. So it's very important to understand the paradigm you're coming from. Thirdly, this commandment is meant to point us to Jesus, to point the Israelites to a Messiah, to a savior, someone who helps them to keep this law because they couldn't do it. And we have to admit that we cannot do it either. It's impossible for us to keep this law to perfection, as God asks of us, demands of us. How many times we haven't spoke ill of our parents or talked back or disobey. And the bad news for all of us is that our disobedience is treated by God as sin.

Actually, it's not a petty sin. Disobedience of parents is on par with some of really nasty and hardcore sins. Listen to Romans, chapter 1 verses 28-32. Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior and gossip.

They're backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning. Man, it feels like it describes our world. And listen to this one. They disobey their parents.

They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless and have no mercy. They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die. Yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them too I want you to hear this. God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die. If your disobedience of your parents brings you eternal death, same with me. This is very serious. Your eternity in mind is a stake. Now let's be asking some honest question.

Have we ever disobeyed our parents? Yes. If we're honest and admit it, we should say yes. Now, does God require justice for each one of those disobediences? Yes.

So then, what's the solution here? We're doomed? It seems like we're hopeless and helpless, and we are. Let that sink in a little bit. Our disobedience, the petty little disobedience that we kind of sometimes ignore or try to sweep under the rug, actually seen by God a dreadful sin.

What's the solution? There's no solution that we can come up with. This is why the gospel is so sweet. Because we're so hopeless and helpless. And God saw us that we don't have a way to get right with Him. He saw that we're doomed. He sent Jesus Christ, His only begotten son to live that perfect life of obedience to his parents that you and I cannot live. And the Bible says that He was a baby and then He grew as a child, as a teenager. And He submitted himself to imperfect parents and He listened to them. He submitted himself to them.

The only times their relationship was strained, His and His parents were when Jesus stayed behind at the temple in Jerusalem and when He kept preaching instead of stopping to visit with his family. But even then He kept the fifth commandment by honoring his higher commitment to his Father in heaven. And Jesus didn't just obey in our stead. This would have been amazing. But he not only did that, He died on the cross on our behalf because someone had to pay for the penalty of our sin.

He carried on his shoulders the penalty for all of our instances of disobedience and dishonor towards our parents. And the Bible says that whoever believes in Jesus Christ, sin is seen by God as being justified. Just as if you've never sinned, just as if you've never disobeyed your parents. And not only that, God sees you as if you always obeyed your parents, just as if you've always obeyed because of Christ. That's a beautiful reminder of the Gospel.

Fourthly, and finally, it teaches us how to live freely. This commandment teaches how to live freely. If you're a child and we have some children here today. God wants boys and girls to speak respectfully to their parents using good manners. He wants you to obey right away, all the way, with a happy heart.

But let's be honest, that's hard to do, isn't it? It's very hard to do. That's why you need Jesus Christ. Young child. I tell my kids all the time, you need Jesus, I need Jesus.

Let's go back to Christ. You cannot do it on your own. Get on your knees. You're going to be so frustrated with yourself because you cannot do it.

Go to Christ. He has a solution for a disobedient heart. But make no mistake, young child, the way you obey your parents will have long term consequences. The child who grows up dishonoring the God ordained authority of his parents will have a hard time in life. You're going to have a hard time holding off a job doing anything where you have people in authority over you.

If you're a teenager, just know that even though you feel that your parents are out of touch with the latest technological updates or the fashion world or the artists, popular artists out there, they don't even know what TikTok is they don't have an account on TikTok. They don't know other things that you might know. Just so you know that you're called to obey them. And not only that, their parents are the one who love you probably more than anyone else and they're responsible for your well being. Give them more credit than you think they deserve because they live life in ways you haven't.

They know a thing or two more than you do. And by the way, don't trust your friends or the experts on the Internet more than you trust your family, your parents, especially those people never change your diaper. Your parents did and they know what's best for your life. They know who you are more than you think you know who you are. Especially if your parents are believers.

Why wouldn't you trust them? Why wouldn't you? If you're not a Christian in your teenage years or young adult and have a hard time honoring your parents, remember what I said, that God will judge you for your disobedience and for your disregard and disrespect and his judgment is pretty severe. Take this warning pretty seriously. Run to God and ask forgiveness for the sin and ask Jesus to take over your life so that you can truly obey your parents.

If you're a Christian, know that one of the key areas in which you can show the world that you're a father of Christ is, by the way, you honor and respect your parents. If you truly want to tell the world that your life has changed and you follow Christ, the way you honor mom and dad is key.

If you're a young adult, even you might not be under the roof anymore. Nevertheless, include your parents in the major decisions of your life. Listen to their counsel, trust their counsel, trust even some of their instincts. They are in your corner. They are the best cheerleaders you have out there. Why wouldn't you want to listen to them? Remember, they love you and they want their best for you. If you have parents that have wronged you and you might have a strained relationship with them, your heart attitude is critical.

You should start praying for them and find ways to thank even for the littlest things. Probably you say, man, there's not much I can thank God for them. There are probably some things. Focus on those. I don't have time here to go into the story of the account of Jonathan and Saul, but Saul was the first king of Israel and Saul did well until at one point he disobeyed God and God brought David to be a replacement for him.

But Saul would not give that up. And Saul started chasing David and tried to kill him. But there was a problem. David was best friends with Jonathan, was Saul's son. But in all these situations, years of Saul trying to kill David, Jonathan, who was next to his father, never ever, you see him never dishonor his dad. He was under a mad man. At one point, Jonathan was almost killed himself by his dad. But he never lifted the finger against his dad. He never spoke bad against his dad. He never dishonored him.

Yes, at times he didn't follow through on some of the things his dad told him because they're against God's word. But in all that process, he honored his dad. If you see, the theme of the scripture is that regardless of how bad your parent is, your heart disposition should be honoring, respecting, wanting to love on them, find ways to love on them. And I want to speak here even to adults and young adults as well, because in America I've seen this trend that is very concerning to me, where people just broke ties with their parents and they're using words like toxic or crossing the borders or whatever. There's different, not abiding by guidelines.

Boundaries. That's what I meant, crossing the boundaries. Now I understand. Let me just say that there's places and times when we need to have conversation with our parents. And some of you have been in counseling with me on that or with others in our church.

There are times we need to think carefully about how we have relationship with our parents. But this idea that we are just going to cut ties is not a very healthy idea. And a lot of times behind the word toxic or not, keeping boundaries is actually the word uncomfortable. Especially when you have a spouse, you're marrying a spouse, and your spouse doesn't get along with your dad or your mom. And because it's hard work, you don't want to have the hard work, your spouse doesn't want to do the hard work.

And you know what you do? You throw the word toxic and you need to cut ties. That's a very American thing, by the way. It's not so met in other parts of the world. You need to work through this.

Again, there are very few exceptional situations where I would say, yes, you probably can say the word toxic. Even then. Your call is to not deal with their parents in the way that the world deals with their parents. You don't respond with evil to evil with evil, you respond to evil with good. And you need to actually do give them grace.

What does grace mean? Grace means you don't treat someone according to how they deserve. You actually treat them according to how they don't deserve. And it seems like sometimes we look outside the walls of the church and sometimes non believers deal better with their parents than believers. You see Muslims, you see other people from other religions deal better and kinder with their parents than Christians do.

That's not right dear friends. And I don't say that I have the answer, but I think we need to have the disposition of the heart to say no, no this is something that I cannot just cut ties because they're my parents forever until they're passing away. They're still there. God ordained them to be my parents. I didn't vote for them. Nobody did.

They didn't even ask for you, by the way. You were given to them by God and He knows why he put those things together. We don't understand, but God is sovereign and I want to speak here to the ones who are hurt. Again, I don't know all the intricacies I'm giving here a big umbrella, but your hard disposition should be forgive. Give them grace.

By the way, if you don't forgive your parents, that will lead to bitterness. And bitterness will eat at every aspect of your life. You don't even realize it. It's down deep down there. And you cannot get away from it until you actually deal with it.

I don't know what they've done to you. I'm not here to say that I have simple solution, but ask the Lord to give you that heart of forgiveness. Start praying for them. Start thinking about them. Maybe they're not even around here for you anymore.

Start to think about those few little things that you thank the Lord for. And start focusing on that. I think your heart would be healed if you allow the Lord to use that. Because otherwise you're going to carry that weight with you until the Lord takes you home. And it's not meant to be that way.

Again, some of it you cannot undo, you cannot redo, but you cannot. You can ask the Lord to give you a soft heart, give you forgiveness, love and supernatural grace. That's what grace ultimately is.

Let's pray. Father, I know this is such a sensitive topic for many of us. Many have been hurt through the years, maybe as children. Maybe there are parents here who have broken relationship with their kids, parents who have regrets in regards to the ways that they raise their kids. Lord, there's so many things we could have done differently. We wish we'd have done differently, we want to do differently. Help us to have the mind of Christ. I tackled a lot of subjects today on this topic. But Lord, I pray that you would use what I shared to make us more like Christ. Convict us of areas where we need to maybe reconsider the way we deal with our parents or with our children. If there's areas where we need to ask for forgiveness, help us to do so. There's areas where we need to reprioritize, help us to do so. We truly want to reflect you, Lord, as we deal with our parents, as we deal with our children. Help us. In Jesus name we pray. And all God's people said, amen.