

Holy Relationships ▪ Deuteronomy 5:16

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Series: Ten Commandments

As we look at the 5th Commandment, my guess is that this commandment is the one people feel least convicted over.

You hear testimonies of people becoming Christians: some had no religion, a filthy mouth, a liar, thieves, or adulterers.

How many people in their testimony say: Man, what got me...what drew me to repentance was that I did not honor my father. I ignored my mothers's wisdom.

One key focus in this series has been holiness.

God's absolute holiness in giving his law.

- › This command is just as Holy.

- The 5th command is a move from the first table of the law to the second table, we see the focus shift to holiness in our relationships.

--First table deals with our Number One relationship—with the Lord (commands 1-4).

All the commands are *vertical* in that sense.

--Second table deals with all our other relationships—our horizontal relationships.

We will see that all of our relationships are to be marked by holiness.

- › It's not a surprise that the family is the first place where things fall apart.

3 Things we will see:

—A word to understand

—A few trends to avoid

—A promise to trust

A word to understand

- There is one word we need to focus on: Honor.
- It does not seem that people really honor others all that much.

| Last month's *Tabletalk* devotional had an excellent article on Honor.

| Just like things are lacking in the supply chain, and stores are mysteriously out of a product—honor is something that is very hard to find.

- The command could literally be translated: “Make Heavy Your Father and Mother”.
- The Hebrew word *Honor* –
refers to something that is heavy. Something that carries weight.

| In the ancient world, wealth was measured by possessions. The more things you owned, the more weight you carry.

| If a wealthy person traveled, they needed an entourage to carry the weight of their possessions.

| Or picture a bag of gold bars and silver coins. The heavier it is, the more value it has.

—So with this understanding, honor is to place a *high value on someone. Highly esteem.*

- Broadly speaking: who are we to honor?

Honor is something we need to consider with everyone.

(1 Pet. 2:17) “Honor everyone”

(1 Tim. 5:3) “Honor widows”

(1 Pet. 2:17) “Honor the emperor”

(Rom. 13:7) Social obligations: “honor to whom honor is due”

Romans 12:10 ESV

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Leviticus 19:32 ESV

“You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

Bottom line is that God expects us to understand honor; to show honor.

Honor should not be in short supply among people who take God’s Word to heart.

A few trends to avoid

- As humans, we can easily get sucked into trends. Not only is there a trend in our world to dishonor—there is also a trend that has shifted to anti-authority.

For years, our family has liked watching *America’s Funniest Videos* together.

Often the videos that win are ones with cute kids, but totally disrespect their parents or some grown adult. They get sassy, rude, challenging...and America laughs and throws money at them.

I wasn’t alive then, but this would have been funny 50 years ago?

Yet the trend is not an American problem—it’s a human one.

Paul describes the lost human condition:

Romans 1:29–30 ESV

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,

- › Disobeying parents is not just a maturity thing—it’s a depravity thing.

2 Timothy 3:1–4 (ESV)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless...

Now this is a trend to watch. Rom. 1 and 2 Tim. 3—both describe the world in rebellion. Do we think it’s cute when a kid gets sassy with an adult? Do we write off disobedience as just a maturity thing they will grow out of eventually?

- There is a movement, growing, that says to be highly suspicious of anyone in power or authority.

Now certainly, there have always been abuses of power. They should be confronted.

- › *But holding authority is a God-given gift that brings structure and order.*

- Yet there is another trend to watch for: neglecting to care for our parents when they age. The word “Honor”, since it is a value word, can also carry the meaning of financial support.

E.G.: A guest speaker is given a payment called an “honorarium” —financial gift because their time and investment is valuable.

So honoring parents has a financial side:

Matthew 15:1–6 ESV

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 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,” he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

- There was an ugly practice going on:

The Aramaic word *Corban* meant devoted to God. Someone could make a pledge of their money to the temple to avoid helping out their parents.

Jesus considered the heart behind the disobeying of the Command.

Notice that age does not make this commandment less binding....it's just applied differently.

- › This is a test of godliness and believing in the gospel.

1 Timothy 5:4 ESV

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

1 Timothy 5:8 ESV

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.

That means that if you have aging parents, be thinking about how to care for them. Physically. Maybe financially. Emotionally.

Some have already started to make movement in this direction: meeting needs, taking to Dr. appointments, spending time with them for emotional health.

For some, it can seem like a full-time job.

But it was our parent's full-time job to care for us when we were young.

You can't be a Christian and write off your aging parents in need.

A promise to trust

Ephesians 6:1–4 ESV

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.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Our office staff helped me with these numbers. On a Sunday morning, close to 44% of those in this building are under the age of 18.

There are 3 specific ways to honor your father and mother. Remember these 3 words:

—Respect

—Obedience

—Gratitude

Respect: Your parent is not equal to you, or below you. They have more wisdom. You might be better than them in math—but they have more life experience.

You also need them—they pay the bills, put food on the table, and buy your clothes.

Above all—God put them in your life as your parents.

- Respect leads next to —obedience, or submission.
- The one we respect, we listen to. We learn from those we respect. We are willing to change for those we respect.

This is why it’s key to respect spiritual authority.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 ESV

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

Obedience: Routine obedience

“Clean your room”; “Practice your piano”; “Stop agitating your sister”; “Drive the car responsibly”.

They may seem like a mountain of annoyances—but they are shaping you in Routine Obedience.

- › *Routine obedience is the way we show that we take Jesus seriously.*
- › The Christian life is made up of thousands of moments of *routine obedience*.

If you can't obey your parents who you see now, how will you obey Jesus who you can't now see?

Gratitude: Being thankful to your mom or dad. Not just when they buy you something, but:

“Thanks for investing your time and energy so I can play this sport.”

“Thanks for sending me to Ridge Haven.”

“Thanks for sacrificing so much of your life to educate me.”

When was the last time you thanked your mom or your dad for something?

- Do this because it's right and rewarding. (v2-3)

—Some falsely teach what's called a *prosperity gospel*.

I believe that is wrong, but I do believe the Bible teaches a *gospel prosperity*.

When the Gospel produces obedience—God rewards it.

Life is happier when we put God first in all things.

- › Do you trust that?

- Finally, there is a word to Fathers: Don't provoke to anger.

—Unrealistic expectation

—Expecting kids to act like adults

—Harsh and domineering leadership...repent of it.

Also, wanting my children to obey because it makes life easier, or makes me look better. Those are wrong motivations—motivation of self.

Our main motivation must be the Lord; our single aim is to instruct.

Children —obeying your parents is a major part of being a Christian.

Parents—parenting is a major, major part of your discipleship.

Conclusion:

Honor. This is something we need to understand. Something to take seriously.

Our attitude toward authority says something vital about our attitude toward God.

--If you can't honor those you can see, how can you honor Jesus who you cannot see right now?

--If honor has been in short supply, ask God to help resupply it.

Gospel. The ultimate promise to trust is the gospel.

Before we get Eph. 6, we have Eph. 2.

It described the desperate condition we are in.

Eph. 2 says that we are naturally all "Sons of disobedience", "Children of wrath"

No one is saved by obeying their parents or by being a good child.

Salvation comes only through the grace of God.

Ephesians 2:4–5 ESV

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

The gospel is the only hope to our deep rebellion.

Grace is the only hope of taking us from hell-bent, dishonorable rebellious kids, to underserving sons and daughters of a Father who loves us.