

Honor

Exodus 20:12, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you."

Let's pray. Father, we praise You for this command You have given us. We praise You that You, in Your mercy, give us all people that cared for us and provided for us when we were younger. As many in this room are in this room now that they have a strong duty to honor their parents, as we all do, but Lord we pray for those in the church, the young ones that need to understand how to honor, how to show respect. As we think of and consider how the Pharisees twisted this passage, twisted Your law to give themselves gain, that we know the result of those who twist Your Scriptures, they do not have rest upon the land that You give, their ultimate destination is destruction. We pray that as we go through this passage that we would not twist Your Word, that we would see how to honor our parents, how to be honorable to those that need the honor and You tell us that it is due them. Give us wisdom as we consider this passage. We pray for Mr. Horn, that You would give him the wisdom to show us truth, that You would reveal Yourself to him to show us truth and that this would all be done in Your Spirit. Give us wisdom. In Christ's name, amen.

As we continue to go through the commandments, we need to remember that every commandment isn't just that commandment, it's actually covering an area of information. The commandment more is the most egregious violation of it, which is why Jesus can say in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:21-22, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire." These verses are immediately after where Jesus Christ said He did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. Then He explains what it means to fulfill the law and He says to commit murder is not fulfilling the law, that's just the most egregious form of considering yourself more valuable than others. Even being angry is still part of the same sin, you've committed murder in your heart. Considering yourself more valuable than others, even being angry is still part of this same sin. You have committed murder in your heart. So as we think of each one of these sins, we should always think of it as a category of sin. Murder is the worst of the category of esteeming yourself more highly than others, it's the worst manifestation of it for society. Another example in Matthew 5:27-28, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Breaking the marriage covenant is the worst violation of the sin of lust, the most egregious, but it doesn't mean fornication is okay, it doesn't mean it's okay to look at pornography. These are all in the same category, but the Ten Commandments are the pinnacle of the category instead of defining everything in that category. When Christ reads it, He says you have heard to not commit adultery, but all these other things

fall into it as well, even to look at a woman to lust for you. When you look at Moses' sermon in Deuteronomy after he repeats the Ten Commandments, he breaks down the application of each of the commandments, commandment by commandment. We didn't take the time when we went through the commandment about the Sabbath because we will see it as we continue through Exodus and Leviticus. As God instructed Moses and he continued to preach on these things and the Sabbath rest, he doesn't just say it's about the seventh day, it's also about in the seventh year to free your slaves. He also says it's about going to the feast. He says it's about feeding the widow and the orphan, you must allow them to rest. It's that you have to release people that were in debt after six years, you have to forgive the debt and open your hand wide to the poor. God gives rest to those who understand their need for rest so we're to forgive the debt, you have to open your hand wide to the poor. God gives rest to those who understand their need for rest so we're supposed to do the same, we're supposed to let people rest from their troubles. The rest is far more than just the seventh day of the week, but when you reject that you have rejected the substance of the eternal rest in God. On the seventh day, He rested because His work was finished before the foundation of the earth. This doesn't mean that there are some sins acceptable in the sight of God and some that aren't. James says if you violate one part of the law you are guilty of the whole law, but there are sins that man has been given the responsibility to suppress, like a violation of the Sabbath, like murder, like adultery. The suppression of those sins is necessary to put the evil out from among you because they have such a destructive effect, not just on the individual, but the society. There are all kinds of ways we can violate the regular principle of worship, but God says if you have a graven image, that's a different kind of violation because you're misleading society. So as we consider the damage to the society and we consider the pinnacle of the law about honor, it is about honoring your father and mother, that's the worst form of it, if you dishonor your father and mother, that's the worst form of breaking the commandment. That's the one that destroys nations because it flows into all the other ones. If you look in the section in Deuteronomy which is about the fifth commandments, Deuteronomy 16:18-22, it doesn't start with mothers and fathers, it starts with honoring judges God has put in place. That's the first one it commands you to honor then it talks about honoring God and doesn't give a blemished animal to God as a sacrifice because that's dishonoring to God. It talks about honoring those who are accused, you have to have two or three witnesses to convict somebody and those witnesses need to be willing to throw the first stone because this is how you show honor to those accused of crimes. Honor was supposed to be shown to the Levites by the civil magistrate because while the civil magistrate had the responsibility to enforce the law, the Levites had the responsibility to determine what the law was so the civil magistrate, the kings, had a responsibility to show honor to the Levites by hearing their interpretation of the law. That's why Jesus Christ says to the Pharisees, 'Listen to what they say for they sit in Moses' seat.' There's a real honor that is due there. Christ says how a king is supposed to honor his people by not multiplying wives and horses and silver and gold to themselves. The king has to honor God by writing out the law and by referencing it every day so that the king never thinks he is better than the people just because he is king. Now the people have to honor the Levites by giving priests what is due him for the offerings and to provide food for them if they come to your gates. It ends with who you must honor or it will be required of you, which is Deuteronomy 18:18-19, "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I

command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.” That’s what happened when Christ came, they didn’t honor Him as the Son of God so God says He will require it of them. That’s why the veil in the temple was torn, that’s what God’s glory left Israel, left Judah because they wouldn’t honor Christ because they violated the commandment about honor. When we think about this commandment, and I’m mostly going to focus on children honoring their parents. The main reason I am going to focus on that is that there are lots of other commands on honor as we go through Exodus and Leviticus, but it is important for us to recognize this is just the worst manifestation of it, it doesn’t mean you can’t manifest it in your life in other ways. If you don’t honor the king, you are violating this commandment. If you don’t honor your elders, you’re violating this commandment. If you’re not honoring the people who went before you, you’re not obeying this commandment. This commandment is not just about honoring and obeying your physical father and mother, this is about showing honor to whom honor is due and God does judge nations and nations do fall because they won’t show honor. Another thing to consider before we start to talk about the actual verse is when you think of the first commandment, the next three commandments, in a lot of ways, are explanations of that. Or you could see the next nine commandments are. You shall have no other gods before Me, therefore you don’t make graven images, therefore you don’t take My name in vain, therefore you keep the Sabbath day holy because all of these are very related to having no other god before the true God. It’s the same thing with the laws about honor. It starts with honor. What’s murder? Murder is not honoring the person that you killed. Adultery is not honoring your wife. Stealing is not honoring the people who earned the money. Bearing false witness is not honoring the truth. When you covet, it’s not honoring God. That’s why it says in the New Testament that covetousness is idolatry because covetousness, the heart of it, is rejecting honor and honoring God. We shouldn’t think of honor as a minor thing, honor is what destroys nations, losing the sense of honor. Where we are in the history of this nation, we should recognize this is what has been happening in our country for the last sixty years. In the sixties there was a distinct and direct effort that said children should not honor their parents, that was the heart of the sixties. Children should make a clean break from their parents, they shouldn’t do what their parents say and all the things that we see afterward, all the destruction in our society, all the gender dysphoria, and all this other garbage that they talk about that is foolishness, it all started with people saying we don’t have to honor our father and mother. That’s where it all started. We are watching our country be destroyed and it is an issue about how we have rejected the idea of honor as a country. So honoring goes far further than just to your father and mother, but we should ask ourselves the question, why would God list honoring your father and mother as the most important manifestation of the commandment?

“Honor your father and mother.” First of all, we need to understand what it means to honor. The word comes from ‘to have weight’. It means to consider that they have weight. Now we go, teenage boys reach this age where they just won’t listen to their parents, especially their mother. What that means is they no longer give weight to their parents’ opinion. As a society, we say this is fine, but this is the heart of lack of honor, to not give weight to their opinion, not give weight to what they have done, not consider them as actually having importance. When we honor our father and our mother it is saying that we consider them to be more important than we

are. That's why the Pharisees had so much problem with Psalm 110. Luke 20:41-44, " And He said to them, "How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" Therefore David calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?"" That's what it means, they couldn't understand how David could honor Christ. Christ says before Abraham was, I was, that's how he could honor. Not because he was His physical offspring, therefore he was greater than He. That's not why David considered Christ greater than him, it was because He was God and He was always God so David could honor Christ by calling Him Lord because He understood He was the Son of God. Why would this be the worst form of dishonor? First of all, it's not the worst form of dishonor, the worst form of dishonor is the first commandment- you shall have no other gods before God. To consider some other god to have more weight than God, to be more important. So to dishonor your father and mother is the most dishonor you could show to other men, but showing dishonor to God is worse than that. If you show honor to God, you will show honor to your father and mother, you can't separate it. To show honor to God is to obey His commandments and He commands us to honor our father and mother. So this worst form of dishonor towards people, when you think about it, we're supposed to honor the civil magistrate because God is King and God appointed the king, He appointed the leaders. Still, the king is just one aspect of God. God's the Father of all and when we think about what God does, He gives us life, He provides for us, He protects us, He's our teacher. These are the basic things that a parent does, a father and mother are much closer to the picture of the fullness of God than the king is. When you reject your father and mother, when you don't show honor to your father and mother, you are rejecting someone who is much more a picture of God to you than President Biden is, than your employer is than the elder in the church is. Our life comes from our parents, they provide for us when there is no hope of us providing for ourselves. They protect us, they teach us all the most important things. They teach us how to walk, they teach us how to speak, these are the things that everything else we learn is based on. Parents are always childrens' first teachers. By parents I don't just mean their physical parents, but whoever is their guardian, whoever is raising them. This is what parents do for their children as they do the same thing that God does for His children. They do the same thing that God has always been doing so they're this picture of God differently than any other picture in the world. They honor them, but they're not called to honor them because they are a perfect picture of God, but because they are a picture of God. All fathers fall short of what they should do, all mothers fall short of what they should do, but most do it sufficiently. The vast majority of children survive into adulthood in our country. All that creates a real duty for all children towards your parents. Proverbs 23:22, "Listen to your father who begot you,

And do not despise your mother when she is old." This is what you have a responsibility to do because of what they did for you. Notice they're not supposed to show honor because they were the best parents in the world, they're supposed to show honor because of the role they had in their life. They're supposed to show honor because their father begot them, they're supposed to show honor to their mother because she cared for them. Similar to God, we're not supposed to honor God when we agree with what He commands, we're supposed to honor God because He is our Creator. Whether we agree with Him or not, we're not supposed to read the Bibl and ask if we agree with Him and if we do, we honor Him. We're supposed do it because God has the right to command us. It's the same with our parents, we have a duty to show them

honor, not because of what a great parent they are, not because what a great provider they are or what a great teacher they are, we're supposed to show honor because God put them in that position of being a picture of God. Children have a duty to honor their parents because of their position. I'm going to talk about specific ways children are to honor their parents. Everyone here should also be thinking about how this applies to other situations, because all the same principles apply across the board. They apply across the board where you have someone over you and God is good and God is kind and God is merciful and God puts all kinds of people above us because we all need to have our sin constrained. There's one time in our lives when we're small children in our parent's house, that there are those other authorities, but the reality is there is only one authority that you usually have to deal with and that's our father and mother. It applies to dealing with all kinds of other authorities as we go through life, which is why when they don't honor their father and mother, it undermines everything else because it undermines all their societal relationships. The first thing about showing honor, showing honor is to obey. When Paul refers to this, he switches it to 'obey'. Ephesians 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." He doesn't say for children to honor their parents, he gives the most basic form of honor, which is to obey. We don't honor God by saying, 'I praise You, I worship You, I say what a great God You are', and then ignore His commandments. The most basic form of honor is obedience. If you just say you're going to honor the civil magistrate and then ignore the laws, you're not showing them honor. If you say you're going to honor your boss, but then don't do what he tells you to do, you're not showing him honor. It's really easy to give honor with lipservice, but we have to be willing to truly honor them, which means that you submit to them. Submitting to authority is the most basic aspect of honor. Remember at the fall, it was about Eve and then Adam not honoring God. Satan asked, 'Did God really say?' That's dishonoring because Eve said, 'Huh, did He say that? You're right, this fruit does look good to eat.' So it starts with dishonor. We need to recognize it started with dishonor because God said not to do this and they went and did it, they ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they dishonored God and did not obey. Without obedience in an authority relationship, there is no honor. It doesn't matter how much the child might want to show affection to his parent, if there is no obedience, there is no honor. Children can put on a lot of acts, where you go and hug your mother or father because you want to control them, not because you want to show honor to them. To show honor to them is to obey. Obviously as the scope of responsibility increases, the ability to exercise jurisdiction changes, but even for adults there is the responsibility of children to obey their parents. Deuteronomy 21:18-21, "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 who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear." This is about the mother and father going to the son's city, this isn't a son living in their household. It says 'his' four or five times, in his city, his elders, the citizens of his city, the men of his city shall stone him to death. It's about him being a glutton and a drunkard, this isn't about a five or fifteen year old. It still comes down to this adult, who is

living separate from his parents, can be put to death because he won't obey his father and his mother, he won't heed their voice, he won't show them honor. It's really easy to think about this line, and as we get different responsibilities and become fathers, we have different responsibilities to our own fathers. We have been given different responsibilities, but if we have an attitude that we will not obey our father, I will not obey my mother, even as an adult we should expect God to deal well with us. God says it's a death penalty offense. That doesn't mean that when we have different responsibilities, we saw this with Jethro and Moses, Moses shows honor to Jethro and listens to what he says. He does what he says, but at the same time Jethro goes to Moses and asks if he can go back and leave. We see this intersection about how honor works and how it intersects. We shouldn't think that as we grow up, our goal is to never obey our parents again, we never need to do what they say because you're violating this command. Honor and obedience go hand in hand. Another way that we show honor is by not sitting as judge. This is something that children and adults can do, they sit in judgement. Sometimes they come to the same conclusion if their judgement matches and then they go and do what was asked of them, but that's not obedience, that's walking in your own ways, that's walking in your own wisdom. You just happen to be doing what the authority said, obedience is doing what the authority says without sitting as a judge over them. You need to train your children not to do this because every child tries to do this. 'But, what about this or this. I think you're wrong here.' Every child tries to do this, they try to sit in judgement of their parents. Understand, if you don't teach them not to do this, they will grow up and what will they do? They will sit in judgement of their boss, they will sit in judgement of the government, they will sit in judgement of the elders of the church, they will sit in judgement of everybody. Guess what? It won't go well with them. There is nothing more miserable than thinking you can't just say God appointed this authority so yeah, if he commands me to do something that's against the law of God, I can't do it. Other than that we are to say that it's a blessing that God has put rules and constraints. How many people, when they drive down the road, see the speed limit and say, 'How dare they do this? Who do they think they are?' Instead of saying, 'Speed limits are a blessing, who are we to question the authority that God has given us?' We need to recognize that if we train our children to sit in judgement instead of just saying we're supposed to show honor, we're supposed to consider their words to have weight, I'm not supposed to think my thoughts and my ideas are heavier and more important than theirs, because when you start to think that way it leads towards destruction. Sometimes you're right, your ideas might be better, but so often what happens with authorities is they know a lot more. In simple ways, at work I have told people to go and do this and then they go and instead of doing that, they accomplish the same thing but they do it a different way. I'm like, I had three other things that were dependant on you going it this way and you did it a different way so it didn't work, it was useless, you disobeyed. They accomplished what I wanted them to accomplish, but they didn't do it the way I wanted them to do it so they disobeyed and it was showing great dishonor. What happens with all authorities is God gives you a greater scope of understanding so the person that's sitting in judgement of that authority, that authority has to think about other things. It is so easy for us to look at President Biden and say, 'Well, look at him, he's doing all these wrong things. If I was there I would do better.' Really? You know how to run a country? Have you even run a state? Have you even done any legislation? Have you figured out how to work with people who have diametrically different viewpoints? These are real skills that take years to learn and

it's very easy to say this president is bad and forget the fact he has skills that you don't have so you should give him honor because he does have skills that you do not even come close to having and he has a viewpoint that's different because he has had to deal with this stuff for fifty years. I've seen this so often with wives and husbands where the wife says, 'I'm not going to do that, that's a dumb idea.' The reality is that the husband has been given a longer term view and he's saying to do this and wife is saying she is going to sit in judgement of that. Understand it starts with children because everybody in this room knows that your five year old doesn't have nearly a complete view of the world as a forty year old does, it just doesn't happen, it's just not true. While this carries forth to other authorities, to other realms, it starts in the home where the child is allowed to think that he knows as much as his parents. He doesn't, he can't sit in judgement because he doesn't know enough, he doesn't have enough experience, he doesn't have the ability to reason. As a society we have not accepted this idea and this is destroying a generation. We've accepted this idea when a twelve year old girl says she would rather be a boy, that we should mutilate her. Since when? There are courts that are saying they will overrule the parents' view. We're a society that despises the idea of honoring our parents. So much of the stuff, the gender confusion stuff that's coming out, the root of it is despising honoring your parents. We need to make sure that we're honoring the authorities that God has put over us, but that we are also training our children to honor us. It's by not puffing them up to think they know enough to make decisions contrary to what you are telling them to do. That's what happens all the time, with younger children every time you ask them to do something and they ask, 'Why?', understand you are training them to judge you and it will be destruction for their whole life because they will judge every authority. We need to recognize showing honor means that our desire is to submit as far as we are able and to not say we want that authority to be perfect. God recognizes that parents aren't going to do it perfectly, but that doesn't give the permission to dishonor them. Hebrews 12:9-10, "Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness." The writer of Hebrews is saying fathers do what they think is best and they train their children, but they make all kinds of mistakes and you still have to show them honor. It is still for your good to show them honor, not because they are perfect, what makes you think a child is supposed to understand? They don't ever have the position to think they can do better. Showing honor is proactive. One of the basic ways to show honor is to anticipate the desire of the person whom you owe honor. If you are very young, or it's a difficult situation, you may not know what your parents want, but much of the time the children know exactly what their parents want and they don't do it. That's dishonor. Who knows it's about bedtime and they need to pick up their toys? You have a duty to pick up your toys without being told. If you truly want to honor your father and your mother, you go pick up your toys without being told, that's true honor. True honor is anticipating what they want and not just saying you're going to do it once they tell you. It's having a heart to obey, having a desire to do what they want. Jesus talks about this in parallel when He's talking about the second coming, but we see the same picture here when the child knows his parent is coming home or his parent is going to walk in when it's bedtime and say to put away the toys. Luke 12:47-48, "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed

things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” Jesus is saying, ‘Look, you’re going to be beaten with many strikes if you knew what you were supposed to do and didn’t do it because you weren’t honoring God.’ We should recognize we’re supposed to teach our children this because this is part of honor, if they know what you want them to do, they are supposed to do it without being forced to do it. Too often it’s easy for parents to go, ‘Well, when I walked in the room I told them to pick up their toys and they picked up their toys so they’re honoring.’ The answer is, they honor you if they know their supposed to pick up their toys so they start to pick them up before you get in the room. That’s honor. Again, we can do the same. Does your behavior change when your boss walks in the room? Does your behavior change when your husband comes home? Is that when you start to run and do the things that you know that he would desire you to do or do you do it in anticipation knowing what he wants? That’s what honor is, or one aspect of honor. The servant who knew his masters will and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. Another aspect of honor is, showing honor shows that you care about what they desire. When little children try to show honor to someone, they frequently will do it by doing something that they would like done for them, rather than understanding what the target of honor is. As they grow up, it should change, true honor is caring about what the party being honored wants and not what you want. If someone hates the acknowledgement of their birthday, to tell everyone it is their birthday is to dishonor them. If everybody wants their birthday to be remembered, then it would be dishonorable to not mention it and remind people because it is the target that matters. That’s what honor is, the person you are trying to argue, it is giving weight to their opinion. Another thing is training your children to call people by their last names, it’s an act of honoring towards those who are older. If someone says, ‘I don’t want to be called Mr. so and so because that was my father, you should call me Dan.’ To teach your children to call them Mr. so and so anyways is to teach them to dishonor the person because that’s not what the person wants. Now, that doesn’t mean that you should always give in, but it means that you should be teaching people that to honor means that you consider others better than yourself. If all you do is care about what your opinion is, that’s not honoring. Honor is in the eye of the beholder, it’s not honoring if the person who you are trying to honor doesn’t think it honoring. It’s only honoring if the person who you think is honored by it wants it, that that’s what they desire. This is the root, this is the core of the regular principle of worship. Why would we think worship would be pleasing to God if it’s not what He wants? Worship is about honoring God, it’s about saying He is worthy. It’s about giving Him weight, but it flows to all kinds of other honor. Honor is considering what the person who you are honoring desires. Now, there’s specific commands in place that should be obeyed regardless of the person’s desires because they are from God and you have a duty to obey God. Leviticus 19:32, “You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord” God says the society is supposed to know how to show honor and the way that they are to know how to show honor is, you’re supposed to stand before gray headed, in honor of the presence of the older man. Most commentaries I looked at say that’s someone seventy and older, so people don’t have to stand when I walk into the room because I do have gray hair. But understand that a society that loses this, they lose the sense of honor. God gives a commandment that the gray headed man might say, ‘Don’t stand before me’, but the people should do it anyway because God is saying there is

a principle of honor that is broader than that one person because this is what God wants and what God commands. In that case you have to obey the commandment of God. The child who the person tells them to not call them Mr. so and so and their parent says to still call them Mr. so and so, they should still call him Mr. so and so because they have a greater duty to honor their parents and they don't know the whole situation. It's like in the military, you're required to salute higher ranking officers. It doesn't matter if they want to be saluted or not, the military put that into place to make sure that there would be honor among the ranks. They are saying this is too important so a general can't say you don't have to salute me. That's not acceptable because they say the rules of honor for the military goes beyond that. So even if a senior officer doesn't want the honor, everyone has a responsibility to do it because it would have a real effect on the nature of the army, on the nature of the military. When God says to rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, we are to do this because it has real impacts on our society and God doesn't say the old man has a choice, you still get up because God has told us how important honor is for a society. If you don't honor you won't last long in the land. As a country that is very dishonoring towards our elders, we shouldn't expect to last very long. We're on the path to destruction. It starts in the church, it starts with showing honor to whom honor is due. Another thing, obeying half heartedly is dishonoring. Where you do it, but you drag your feet while doing it. In Deuteronomy it talks about dishonoring God by offering blemished animals. In Malachi God says in 1:8, " See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them." God is saying if you offer a blind animal, why would He be pleased with it if your governor wouldn't even be pleased with it? When you have to do something, when you try to do something and you do it, but you're not really doing it, or not doing it completely or how it was asked to be done, you are half obeying. It's the same principle as offering a blind animal. It's the same principle of offering a lame animal. We shouldn't accept it from our children because that is teaching them to dishonor. It's easy to because it's hard work to teach your children to honor. They try to work it to be dishonorable in all kinds of different ways and the easiest way it to half do it. You don't put any effort into it, you just do enough so your mother won't yell at you for not doing it. You kind of did it, but you didn't try to do it. Don't think you have honored your parents in that case, you have not. You have shown them great dishonor. If they ask you to do something and you don't put any effort into it, you just try to do the minimal effort you can, you are dishonoring your father and your mother. This applies to schoolwork, this applies to doing the dishes. We've had a lot of different young men stay here and one of the ways you could tell if a young man was dishonorable to the core was when asked to do dishes and he could never clean the dishes. Oh yeah, he washed them and put water on all of them, but it was a sign that they were dishonoring because they knew the dishes were supposed to be clean, but instead they just wanted to half clean them. This happens all the time. Make sure that you understand what dishonoring is. It's really important for parents to understand this is dishonoring so they discipline their children to teach them that that is not honoring, to half do a task, to do it just enough that it has a facade, this is what Israel got destroyed for. They honored God with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him. That's what it looks like when you half do a job, you've honored your parents with your lips, but your heart is far from them. Having a heart towards them means you try to do what they really want you to do and not do just enough to skate by. Honor is reflected in words, how we speak to someone does

tie to how we think about that person. When you make your children call someone with a title, like Mr. or Mrs., or respond with sir or ma'am, it works, it really breeds honor towards those people. They stop thinking of themselves so highly. I'm not saying they still don't think of themselves highly sometimes, but understand that words matter. The reason it is good to force them to say, 'Yes ma'am and no sir', is that they stop treating people that are above them as being on their same level and it creates this distinction. A child is not on the same level as an adult, their thoughts and opinions and arguments are not on the same level as an adult, they don't know enough for these things to be true. They need to recognize that adults really have lived life more, what they do and what they say should carry far more weight than what a child should say and what a child does. Teaching them the words helps, it creates a culture of honor that will help them through their life when they are dealing with their boss, when they are dealing with their husband, when they are dealing with the civil magistrate. When someone speaks to them with dishonor they will say, 'I should receive honor, how dare you treat me like you are better.' There are a lot of people that get tickets because when the policeman walks up and knocks on the window, instead of saying, 'Yes sir, I'm sorry. What did I do?'. So many people argue and say, 'What right to do you have to stop me?' Don't teach your children that. It starts by teaching how they speak to people who are supposed to be people that they are supposed to honor. If they treat them as equals it will have real effect on them. I had an employee once that said, 'Why should I do this if you can do it faster?' I was like, 'Yeah, but I'm worth more than you are.' 'How dare you suggest such a thing.' Well, because I can fill out twenty times what you can fill out? They didn't understand because they weren't taught to honor, and that was a homeschool boy. Just to make sure we don't say that was a public school boy, he was homeschooled his whole life and he couldn't accept the idea that different people had different values in the world. It doesn't mean we're not all equal before God and all have the same value before God, but in the world there are people that have different weights and levels of importance and you need to make sure you are teaching your children that or it won't go well with them. He didn't have a job for much longer after that. The tongue is a rutter that directs our whole body. If we speak with honor, if we require our children to speak with honor towards those above them, they will be much more likely to act with honor. Honor isn't just words or attitudes either. When we hear about honoring your parents like in 1 Timothy 5:16, "If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows." We have to honor with our goods as well. The normal order of things is that parents save up for their children, but there are other cases in the world, especially with widowhood or injuries or other things where it's impossible for someone to provide for themselves. In that case children are to show honor to their parents by providing for them. It's really easy for people to think the government should have that responsibility, but the government doesn't have the responsibility to honor its citizens in that way. If it does, it has to steal from someone else, it has to abuse its own authority and use the sword to take money instead of using it to constrain evil. When children won't honor their parents, that's how you get the welfare state, that's how you get a state where people are saying they don't have the responsibility to take care of my parents and the government says that they need their votes so they will take care of it. Honor means that you have to be willing to use your goods. Part of honoring that a church owes those that provide spiritually is to provide for them physical things, that's what the Scriptures say. Part of the honor due a civil magistrate for the work they are

doing is to pay your taxes. This is what we're supposed to do. The priests were supposed to get the Levitical tithe, which was a basic form of honoring. Honoring is with our goods and not just with our words and actions. Another aspect of honor is fear. I don't just mean reverence, but parents need to teach that their children are to fear them. If parents always give in in the end, the children will not fear them and without fear there won't be any honor. We're to honor God, but we're commanded to fear God. We're commanded to honor the king, but we're also commanded to fear the king. It's easy to teach them fear, even though as a culture we are declaring that to be abuse, but that's leading to the destruction of our country. We have all these families, all these homes where the parents are terrorized by their children because there will be fear in the relationship. The question is, which direction is the fear? I know lots of people that have left the faith because they couldn't say no to their children, because they were afraid it would end the relationship with their children. Understand, I'm not saying they were saved before, but I have watched this with many families. The parents were more afraid of the children than the children were afraid of the parents because the children knew the parents couldn't say 'no' so in the end the parents would cave to all kinds of things that they knew was wrong, but they were afraid to lose their child. You need to teach your children to be afraid of you and not fear your children. Every case that comes to mind, and I know multiple cases like this, and every case the child knew the parents feared them more than they feared the parents so they knew they could manipulate the parents. 'I don't want to go to this church anymore, I want to go to that church.' 'We're going to this church.' 'Well I don't want to go to this church, I want to go to this church and if we don't I'm going to do this.' Then the parents acquiesce. I've seen this happen over and over again where the parents fold and I have seen family after family leave the faith and go to very heretical churches. They feared the children and the children didn't fear them because the children knew they would always cave. If you teach your children that you will cave, they won't fear you. If you teach your children that if they just keep on pushing you will end up giving into them. They won't fear you and they will find out in their life that there will be times that they push and the authority doesn't cave and they will be fired or be put in jail. Don't teach them to do that, teach them to fear authorities and teach them to fear you. Those who we truly consider to have weight, we truly consider that they can do damage to us, which is why we fear them. You can't truly honor without having some fear. One thing that's not dishonoring that I want to say, is acknowledging that there are other authorities. God in His wisdom and great kindness, hasn't entrusted all authority so one person, including a parent, so it's not dishonoring to an authority to invoke another legitimate authority, even though parents think it is, even though husbands think it is. I will use marriage as an example, being hit by your husband is not grounds for divorce, but it's sure grounds to call the police, it's sure grounds to call the elders, it's sure grounds to call their boss and call their father. We shouldn't think that you're dishonoring somebody because you're invoking other authorities, instead we should be thinking of that as the glory of how God structured the world. No one sits in the place of God. There is one God and your parents don't sit in that authority. Parents are a picture of God, but they are not that God. It's valid to invoke the civil magistrate, it's valid to invoke the ecclesiastical magistrate, it's valid to invoke other authorities based on a situation. God puts many checks and balances in place because we're depraved and wicked men and women do evil things. God has put those constraints in place because He cares for the world with He created, even with sin He cares for the world He created. So a child is not being dishonoring if she tells someone that her

father touched her inappropriately. We need to make sure we understand that is not dishonoring, that is honoring to other authorities and we have a duty to honor more authorities than just our parents. Then the promise, "that your days may be long upon that land that the Lord your God is giving you." This whole commandment has been in second person singular and so is the promise, but as Moses refers to it, he applies it to individual children. When we think of honoring our fathers and our mothers, it's not just so one person lives on the land, he is saying this to Israel so Israel will live long upon the land that their Lord God is giving them. God is speaking to this to all the people gathered there and He's saying 'you' and referring to them as one group. It clearly has an application to a child to their parents, but as a people God is saying, 'When you stop honoring your fathers and mothers, when you stop honoring Israel, Jacob, Abraham and Isaac, if they stop honoring the people that went before them, they should expect to perish off of the land.' This is a normal attack that people have when they want to remake the nation and it doesn't end well. For instance, when Lenin came into power in Russia, they tried to destroy the history of what went on before. They can have success for a few years, but it doesn't end well because they have shown dishonor to the people who went before and God is a good God and He judges for that and He drove them off the land and the Soviet Union didn't last very long before it collapsed. We should note this because as political leaders are embracing the 1619 project, and that is to rewrite American history to make it totally fake and false, and to write it from a perspective that is just nonsensical, that's what is happening. That's the same thing that happened in the 1920's in Russia and that's what is happening now in America. We should recognize that when you won't honor your mother and father, you will not last long in the land. That's the promise. The promise is if we do it, we will last, which means when we don't we should expect destruction to come upon us. We're rewriting our history now, that's what is happening in our country right now. That's what all the riots were about, you have all these people that are rioting and then when you finally find out what happened, one of the riots was because a guy was trying to kidnap two children and he reached for a weapon and he got shot by a police officer and that led to billions of dollars of destruction. Understand when we won't listen to truth, we will be destroyed and the basic truth starts with, how did we get where we are? That's what is being rewritten right now. While God was speaking to the Israelites about the Promised Land, the land God was giving them, we shouldn't think this only applies to them because this is a pattern of how God acts. What happened in the Garden of Eden? Adam and Eve dishonored God and would not listen to His commandments so what did God do? He put them out of the garden. This is the pattern from the beginning and God hasn't changed. He was and is and always will be. God doesn't change, this is what God did and this is what God will do so if we don't teach, if we don't have an expectation of honor in our culture, we should expect that culture to be destroyed. When a people dishonor those who went before them, those who they were dependant upon, they should expect the judgement of God. Part of that judgement is because of sowing and reaping, this is the seeds that have been planted and there will be real effects of those. What it means is that when you dishonor your parents and say you're not going to follow them and do what you want to do, what will your children do? They will say this is the right thing to do, I shouldn't do what my parents say. That means every generation turns from what the previous generation was and you no longer have a society anymore because every generation changes. This is why we want to talk about Gen X and all these other generations because we're saying every generation redirects what the country is, which means there is no

stability and when there is not stability it will fall. Stability is when you honor your father and mother, when you honor those that came before you. This is a promise, if we establish a culture of honor it's easy to see what happens if we don't, and if we establish a culture of honor then our days upon this land can be long because God didn't give us this land, even though the context is Israel, He did give us this land and we're either going to set it up so the next generation that comes after us loses what was established here or we're going to teach them honor. If they don't have honor, they shouldn't expect their days to be prolonged. Honoring your father and mother is the basis on which you learn honor that when you become an adult you apply it to other aspects of your life. Not that you don't rebel against it, but Proverbs does say if you train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he won't wander far from it. When parents teach their children to honor, it will help the society because they won't wander that far from it. Honoring our father and mother doesn't mean we don't ever question what they do, it doesn't mean that when we have to raise our children that we do it exactly the same way our parents do, but it does mean that we give honor to them and consider their thoughts, we ask them what their experiences were and what they came from. We recognize we're standing on their shoulders and when a nation and people forget they are standing on the shoulders of people that came before them, they will fall. It's normal for sinful man to want to rebel against any authority, but God has ordered things that when we reject the past and show no honor to those who went before us, we will do great damage to our future.

Applications:

1. To children and adults, if you won't obey that police officer, if you won't obey the civil magistrate, if you won't file your taxes, if you won't apply for that license that they want you to apply for, you're not honoring them. Honor requires obedience. If you're sitting in judgment over them saying they didn't have to decide that way, for us it gets a little more complicated because our relationship with the civil magistrate in a representative republic is that we do vote for them so it is valid for us to ask if they are doing the right thing, but what we shouldn't be doing is saying this person is evil and that's why he's doing this or that. You don't know and that's dishonoring. While it is valid for us to be questioning their decisions, we should be slow to judge their motives unless we know. We owe honor to them and some of that honor is to assume the best rather than the worst. If we're not being proactive in not doing what the authority wants, we are being dishonoring. We're not supposed to be passive and just wait, we know what we're supposed to do, we're supposed to go and do that. It's a common form of disobedience in children, but it's also a common form of disobedience in adults as well and we need to recognize that Christ says if you know what I want you to do when I return, I will judge you because you didn't do it so be prepared and recognize this is a common fault among people. Be willing to see it, as adults, in your other relationships. Are you being proactive in doing the things that the authority over you would have you to do? Or not caring about the one to whom you are to show honor. This is the core of the regular principle of worship, do we do what we want to do and say you have to like it? Or do we ask what this person who we are supposed to show honor, really wants us to do? Obeying half-heartedly, we all know you can obey half-heartedly. We all know that it's easy to do it

when an authority speaks, to just kind of drag our feet and do barely enough to get it done. That's not pleasing God and that's not showing honor. These things are obvious with our children, let's not be blind to them with our relationships with other authorities. Just honoring with words and not with sacrifices or the world's goods when appropriate, we need to recognize that honor is more than just saying things. Let's not just honor with our lips, let's honor with our deeds and our actions and our goods.

2. When your children dishonor you, ask yourself how you do the same with other people. Yes, they have a sin nature, but also recognize you are training them. When they show dishonor, I'm not saying the answer will always be obvious from your own life, but we should recognize that God gives us children so that we can see how He thinks about us. When they dishonor you, don't just immediately say you're going to spank them for dishonoring. I'm not saying you shouldn't spank them for dishonoring, you should, but when you're taking them back to spank them, you should ask yourself the question if you do the same thing, are they following your example? It's really easy for us to dishonor and then be trying to teach our children to show honor. Guess what? If we're showing dishonor and teaching them with our actions and deeds that it's okay to dishonor, we shouldn't be surprised when they dishonor so we should ask if we are training them to do this with how we treat our authorities. We have to understand that society loves to say it's okay to dishonor. When Jesus Christ comes in Mark 7:9-13, it says, "He said to them, 'All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.'" Just because the society accepts the way we show dishonor, when we see dishonor from our children, we should be asking ourselves how do we show that dishonor even if the society accepts it? Of course, the society is going to accept all kinds of dishonor, but if we want to teach our children to be honorable, then we need to honor our authorities.
3. How do you teach dishonor in your home? How do you speak about your boss? How do you speak about the elder in your church? How do you speak about the civil magistrate? In doing counseling with parents and children, it's not surprising to me how many people have problems with their children being dishonoring because they have learned it from their parents. You watch how the wife speaks to the husband or the husband to the wife, you hear about how they speak about other people, and then they are shocked that their children are dishonoring to them. You need to watch your words, you need to watch your thoughts and how you do these things because that will be a greater instruction in dishonor than your words will be about how they should honor. If you want your children to be honoring, then you need to show honor to him who honor is due. You need to do it first before you can expect your children to do it. That doesn't mean you don't spank them for it, I'm just saying if you are constantly sowing dishonor, don't think you will be able to drive dishonor out of your children's heart because you keep sowing it in there.

4. Don't confuse natural affection with honor. Children can be very affectionate to their parents and still be very dishonorable to them. There are plenty of single mothers who live in inner cities all over the world who thought their children honored them, they were just affectionate towards them and then they reach a certain age and they can show affection, but they also terrorize and control because they don't believe that single mother's opinion has weight. A child's affection doesn't necessarily mean that they have a sense of honor towards you. Honor is different from affection, honor is saying this person's opinion has weight to me and it should have more weight than their opinion has. As we think about honor, let's make sure that we're teaching it to our children because that's how our nation will continue to last. We're at the border of whether we will last or not so it starts with the church repenting and starts with the church demanding that their children show honor.

Let me pray. Oh Lord God, we do thank You for this Word. We thank You for this commandment that You have given us. Lord, we do thank You that You speak much more about this, there is so much on this topic. Lord, I do pray that You convict us where we should hear, convict us where we fall short and let us recognize and understand that the honor that's due to others is because we owe You all honor, for You are our Creator. Lord, we pray that You let us show honor to whom honor is due because we honor our God. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray, amen.