

Where Does Morality Begin?

Wednesday, January 08, 2020

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Leviticus 19:1-3 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy. Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 21:15 And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.

Exodus 21:17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

Deuteronomy 27:16 Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Ezekiel 22:7 In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

- I. First thing mentioned after “ye shall be holy” is “ye shall fear every man his mother and his father.”
 - A. This commandment is mentioned in one way or another untold times in the Word of God – the law, the prophets, the Gospels, and the epistles.
 - B. It is explained in very clear detail so there is no mistaking what it means.
 1. Setting light by, smiting, cursing, disobeying, mocking, despising, are words used to identify those who are guilty of violating this commandment.
 2. It is mentioned in context with the grossest of sins: profaning the holy things of God, murder, adultery, incest, lewdness, extortion Ezekiel 22:7-12)

Romans 1:29-31 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

2 Timothy 3:2-5 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection,

trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

- C. Honoring and regarding with reverence the parents to whom you owe your very life 10,000 times over is the very beginning of holiness in a life.
 - D. It is the very foundation of an attitude of heart that is mindful of, and conducive to, holiness in life.
 - E. If a person cannot, and does not, honor his parents, that person has not even begun to be in obedience to God.
 - F. It is a basic moral issue that confirms or denies the reality of the faith one professes.
 - G. Violating this command of God carried the most severe penalty the law afforded – death.
- II. Those who take God seriously and truly desire to obey Him have to come to terms with this commandment.
- A. Sadly, there are many people who try to think themselves religious while living in total rebellion against this commandment.
 - 1. These people are in for a rude awakening when they face God, for in his sight they are worthy of death, and are far from having the favor of God.
 - B. Many find it very difficult to honor parents because they have somewhat against them, but do not be deceived into thinking that God has provided exemptions for those who are able to find fault with their parents – He has not.
 - 1. Who could not find fault with their parents, no matter what kind of people they were?
 - 2. The very nature of the relationship makes it impossible to keep from seeing faults.
 - 3. Who makes the most mistakes? The parents or the children?
 - 4. Who commits the most offences? The parents or the children?
 - 5. Who bears the rod? The parent or the child?
 - C. Parents are entrusted with children to keep alive and train to be real people in a sinful world.
 - 1. The children are such selfish, lying, deceiving, demanding, little creatures that is impossible for a parent to live with them day and night for 18-20 years without offending them some way.
 - D. Obeying this commandment requires that a person grow up and act like an adult instead of a child.
 - 1. He must begin to see a bigger view of life and of his parents and their lives than his own little bubble of self that he has lived in while he was a child.
 - 2. He must realize that his parents are just people and that they have dealt with an impossible task (dealing with him) the best way they could.
 - E. A person, especially a person who claims to be a Christian, should be willing to offer the same mercy and forgiveness to their parents as they do to any other person.
 - 1. We know that if we do not forgive, God will not forgive us – Jesus said.
- Matthew 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**
- 2. No one is exempt from this concerning your parents.
 - F. God did not give us this commandment because parents are perfect and it is always and easy thing to do.

- G. But our parents are not to blame for the choices we make in life when we are in rebellion against them.
- H. Our parents are not to blame for all the trouble we get ourselves into with our own foolishness and refusing to walk in their counsel and the commandments of God.

III. What if a person has parents that are dishonorable people?

- A. What if your parents abandoned you as a child?
- B. What if your parents divorced and in their selfishness threw your life out the window?
- C. What if they lived their lives in drugs, alcohol, and whoredom and did not care about your life?
- D. What if they were just mean, miserable, hateful people?
- E. We have already talked about the answers to these questions.
- F. You must forgive them, not curse them, not mock them, not despise them, and not set light by them.
- G. God does not require us to imagine things about them that are not true; if they were not good people, then we are not honoring them by lying and saying they were.
 - 1. God would surely have us not to speak evil of them and make others think evil of them.
- H. God only requires us not to hate, not to despise, not to be bitter against them, and to have an attitude of forgiveness toward them.
- I. It might be the only hope of their salvation.

IV. What about those who dishonor their loving and godly parents?

- A. We can all feel sympathy and compassion for those who have not had good parents.
 - 1. They have to really have God's help to not violate this basic moral law.
- B. But there should be no sympathy for those who are so wretched that they would dishonor, curse, despise, and set light by parents who have prayed and wept over them since the day they were born and lived a life of faith and holiness before them.
- C. It is a calamity that we have seen very commonly throughout history and in our own families right now – that even in a home where God is truly worshipped, even there, a selfish, deceived, bitter soul can survive all the prayers and workings of God to become a tool of Satan and wretch headed for hell.
- D. What an awful evil for a son or a daughter to revile, set light by, despise, dishonor, and hate those dear souls that thanked God for them the day they were born and nourished and cherished them, and provided and protected them, and wept and prayed for them every day of their life!
- E. Only when we understand that this commandment is the beginning of moral law will we understand the gravity of it.
- F. Only then will we truly understand and appreciate why God placed the ultimate penalty on those who violate it.
- G. Only then will we see it as the abominable thing it is when children refuse to honor their parents.