

## Honor Authority, Starting in the Home (Exodus 20:12)

INTRO: SLIDES OF DRC KIDS, FAMILIES & TEN COMMANDMENTS TEACHING.

- Today we're studying 10 commandments (turn to Ex 20).
- #5 is on honoring father and mother.
- We can learn from honoring authority in Africa, Asia, S America, etc.,
- our culture is one of worst and even Christians have much to learn.

We'll see today the term "father" in Bible culture also isn't just biological or just for young kids

*As I read, notice it doesn't say 'till you're 18,' or 'if you agree'*

Ex 20:12 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."* Deuteronomy 5 repeats those exact same words and adds also *"that it may go well with you..."*

- This is for you to enjoy life, and it's for all life.
- The point: honor authority, starting in the home.

*This principle extends beyond your growing up years to all of life and authorities*

It's been said the family is to be our first hospital, first school, first government and first church.

- If there isn't honor, respect and submission first for parents, life won't go well in the land  
Guess who said this and when: "Youth today love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, no respect for older people, and talk nonsense when they should work. Young people do not stand up any longer when adults enter the room. They contradict their parents, talk too much in company, guzzle their food, lay their legs on the table, and tyrannize their elders." Who was this man? It was Socrates, the philosopher who lived 400 years before Christ!"<sup>1</sup>

*There's nothing new under the sun, just cycles of revolutions and rebellions*

Dishonoring authority is an old problem that just has new platforms (technology, terminology).

- 2 Tim 3 says the old problems will get worse in the last days,
  - o including disobedience to parents.

Youth have always been tempted to dishonor authority but now older people are tempting them.

- Today authorities want to get rid of the terms 'father and mother' (birthing person).
- Authorities say kids can be their own authority
  - o self-identity, sexuality, surgery, sinful autonomy.

*The new 5<sup>th</sup> commandment is "honor your feelings to enjoy life"*

Our 'therapeutic age teaches parents to be extremely careful not to impose their will upon the child. Our psychologized society believes children basically would be healthy but for parents.'<sup>2</sup>

- Think about TV sitcoms: parents are incompetent idiots, dad is dumb, but kids are wise.
- Think about all the Disney cartoon movies singing dishonor of father or mother
- Ariel sings on land they'll understand you don't reprimand your daughter, like her dad.
- Those who rebel have the dreams that they wish come true.
- The parents are often bad, and the liberated kid is the hero.

*In a sea of dishonor we have a divine lighthouse built on a rock in Ex 20:12*

Honor authority, starting in the home.

1. The divine foundation
2. Some biblical illustrations
3. The promised motivation
4. Some gospel applications

*God help our houses to be lighthouses, so others don't crash and destroy lives*

For 3500 years, kids have learned God's law, and often this command first.

- It started with Israel but has continued wherever Christianity spread,
- including American schools for over 200 years.

New England Primer (used in U.S. through 19<sup>th</sup> century): 'The sum of the 10 Commandments: with all thy soul love God above, And as thyself thy neighbour love... Which is the fifth commandment? A... Honor thy father and thy mother... What is required... preserving the honor, and performing the duties belonging to every one in their several places and relations' (so not just parents--in the school, world--honor authority, starting at home)

**If you can't submit and respect in your family, you won't in your society**

### The divine foundation is God's love.

"Father" is His title first, and in ch 4 He called Israel His son, and told Pharaoh '*let my son go.*' The God of their fathers adopted them and now calls them to honor His earthly representatives.

- 20:2 says He lovingly redeemed them out of slavery.

**Think of all 10 commandments from a loving heavenly Father wanting to write on their hearts a law of love**

Remember Jesus said the law is summed up in 2 commands, loving God and loving neighbor.

- God wrote 10 commandments on 2 tablets, historically taught as 1-4 on 1st, 5-10 on 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup> table is loving Lord with all we are, 2<sup>nd</sup> table is loving neighbor (starting with closest).

Jesus to rich young ruler: *Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*<sup>3</sup>

Jesus quotes the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the decalogue to him and joins loving neighbor to honoring parents.

*Honor* is the key word in the middle of Ex 20, after honoring God's nature, worship, name, day.

- In commands 5-10 we love by honoring human authority, life, marriage, truth, property
- Heb. verb *honor* has the idea of weightiness, heaviness.
- Not that dad is heavy or overweight, it means giving parents gravity, greatest respect.
- It's the root word for glory and there's a glory of gray hair, age and authority in scripture.
- Children are to rise up to praise their mom in Prov 31.

Lev 19:3 *Each of you must respect his mother and father* [literally *fear* or revere or reverence, normally used only for God]... *Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God* (v. 32 NIV).

**That one lists mothers first, and it includes physical actions to show respect and honor**

T. Boston: 'children are most apt to despise their mother; and they being much about her hand while young, lest familiarity breed contempt, God hath expressly provided against it. They must have a conscientious regard to that authority God has given them over them, and fear to offend them, as those who to them are God's stead.'<sup>4</sup>

**This isn't just for when you're young, it says show respect for the elderly**

### That's the divine foundation of honoring moms and dads, what are some biblical illustrations?

In the context, Moses wrote Genesis before Exodus.

- Gen 9 is where a son dishonored his father Noah (who was drunk and disrobed).
- That son was judged and his sons (Canaanites) prophesied to be under the sons of Shem.

Ex 20:12 is echoing that in the land of Canaan that God will give Israelites (sons of Shem).

- Shem honored his father by covering Noah's dishonor so it went well with Shem.
- Gen 9 illustrates **we're to honor a parent even when they're dishonorable or in sin.**

**Ex 20, v. 5, already mentioned 'sins of the father,' but v. 12 says 'honor your father...'**

Go back to ch 18 in the context right before this. Moses applied this to unsaved father-in-laws. Jethro was a pagan Arab priest of Midian who Moses honored by seeking his input back in ch 4. 18:7 *Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare* [how doing] *and went into the tent.* <sup>8</sup> *Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done*

...That's an illustration of honor, affectionate and appropriate respect, asking how he's doing. It looks like caring about their welfare, spending time with, sharing what God's doing in your life.

**Honoring is also considering parental advice and input, even if from an in-law unsolicited!**

<sup>17</sup> Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. <sup>18</sup> You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. In v. 19 Jethro (now a new believer) gives wise advice so he doesn't burn out, to share burdens, delegate, educate helpers, etc. Jethro says in v. 23: "If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace." <sup>24</sup> So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

**Moses didn't stop honoring when he turned 18, he was 80 but still honored Jethro and it went well**

Another example of honoring a mother-in-law was Ruth

- despite Naomi's bitterness Ruth was committed to serve to the end
  - o (and even her weird advice for a threshing floor marriage setup).

What if you're an adult or adult authorities counsel you to sin?

- We're to obey God above man but honor man where we can.

Saul tried to get Jonathan to setup David for murder (violating 6<sup>th</sup> commandment).

- Jonathan kept the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> by honoring dad, but honoring the heavenly Father more.
- He got away from dad's abuse and violence, but still honored him later in life till he died.

Maybe you had a bad dad, Jonathan's tried to kill him, but Jonathan was by his side as he died.

1 Kings 2:19 Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him... And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right.

- Even the king rises for his mother. He bows, brings her a chair, gives her his full attention

His parents sinned (violating 7<sup>th</sup> commandment), but Solomon honored, was wise, it went well.

And he wrote Pr 23:22 Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

**The biblical illustrations show us honoring is both attitudes and actions**

**#3. The promised motivation.** Honor your father and mother, *that your days may be long in the land...*

'Anyone in the social sciences field, whether liberal or conservative, has to acknowledge that study after study has shown that the best predictor for health as an adult and for making it through school, staying out of jail, [other life-destroying vice]...is what happens in the home... the best predictor is whether you had a mom and a dad who loved you and were there for you, and whether you listened to them and followed them. This is the way the world works.'<sup>5</sup>

**A boy once saw a kid defy his parents at a park and said 'dad, he doesn't wanna live long!'**

There's both a positive and negative motivation. Negatively, dishonor can mean shortened days. Look across the page at **21:15: Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death...**[v. 17] *Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.* Not long days in the land! Dt 21:18: *If...a stubborn and rebellious son...will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them,* <sup>19</sup> *then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders...*

That principle can apply to elders and the church today

- not to put to death, but some may need to be put out of a home or church.
- We're not in the land of Israel under its law as a theocracy, and I'm no theonomist.
- But God is deadly serious about this sin, and that's not just in the OT.

Jesus in the gospel of Matthew, 19:4 quotes 'Honor your father and your mother,' **and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'** <sup>5</sup> But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God,"' <sup>6</sup> he need not honor his father.' [i.e., not support dad in old age] *So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.* That's Jesus to those not helping elderly parents.

**We deserve death if we curse parents or won't care for parents in their time of need**

Dishonoring isn't just reviling lips, it can be rolling eyes. Pr 30:17 *The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley...* Your eyes can despise your parents.

- Kids, watch your eyes for birds if you roll them!
- History tells us when rebels were hung to die on crosses, birds plucked out their eyes.
- That literally happened, we don't see that today exactly but we do see life cut short
  - o (drug overdoses, deadly accidents, drive by shootings, delinquents).

Modern law may not end rebel's lives but a law of sowing and reaping may end a free life in jail

**Many who don't honor father or mother (or have a dad) don't live long or well**

'Don't join a gang, hang out with \_\_\_\_\_, hang on high branches, get high, touch electric wires...'

- Youth who ignored parent warnings of substance abuse,
  - o (or 'don't run into the street, or drive drunk,' etc.), have had lives cut short.

It's tragic when unarmed people die resisting arrest and rejecting police authority orders

- but those willing to comply tend not to die in those tense situations.
- Authorities don't always get it right, but if you respond right, it often goes well with you.
- Some disrespectful people do live long, but don't *enjoy* life.

**What about honorable people who are murdered? That's the 6<sup>th</sup> command, more next week**

What about parent-haters who live 'long and prosper'? This isn't science fiction. Fact is, Ps 37 says: '*Fret not yourself because of evildoers...over the one who prospers in his way...In just a little while, the wicked will be no more...the meek shall inherit the land* [meek=humble respectful honorable children of God] ...*Better is the little that the righteous have...The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.*'

Some who honor parents have little years in this life, but they're better than wicked long lives.

- Isa 57:1 says sometimes the godly are taken away to spare them evil in this life.<sup>6</sup>
- I'm sensitive to grieving families here, loved ones who didn't live long in this land.

**But there's gospel hope for that or any who fall short of God's ideal**

**The promised motivation ultimately depends on our 4<sup>th</sup> and final point: gospel applications**

Some of you are hurting from parent-child relations that aren't good but there's good news here.

- Some are mourning a lost loved one whose life in this land was short.
- We have a sympathetic Savior who honored parents perfectly but died at age 33.
- He and His followers may not live a full life by some definitions,
  - o but He said He came to give life to the full, a life more abundantly.

*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...Do you believe...?'*

Do you believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life and bow to Him in faith as your authority?

- He quoted Ps 37 but changed it: '*the meek shall inherit the earth*' (not land of Canaan).
- Jesus didn't misquote out of context, Ps 37 said they would dwell on the land *forever*

**Don't think old Canaan, think new creation, beyond this life, Immanuel's Land forever!**

The 4<sup>th</sup> commandment for temporary physical rest looked ahead to spiritual eternal rest (Heb 4).

The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment to old covenant Israel also began in the land, but is bigger better forever.

- There's many promises in scripture I can only make sense of if there's a new earth.
- Believers in Jesus will be resurrected and inherit the earth He renews.
- Ps 37 says they'll dwell forever on that land (end of Revelation describes that land).

Jesus said those who believe in Him in this life have eternal life, it starts here but it never ends.

- There's a quality of life for the meek now and forever who honor authority, in the Lord.

**The gospel promises that life to believers who die young, there's a land fairer than day**

The end of v. 12 says God gives this land and life. It's a free gift God gives, not by our works.

Being moral and respectful to parents doesn't give us eternal life.

- Jesus said we must love Him more than father or mother and take His cross, Mt 10:37-39
- But we must still honor in the Lord

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."*<sup>8</sup>

That's Eph 6 applying the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment in the Lord Jesus beyond the land Jews had in OT.

**It also warns fathers not to provoke, but to bring up in God's truth and love**

- a. Children at home, obey parents.** The Bible says *this is right*, and obey them *in the Lord*.
- Not 'in the things you agree with,' not 'kids, obey your parents if you think they're right.'<sup>9</sup>
  - Some of you junior highers and high-schoolers think you know more than your parents.
  - Some of you say your parents just don't get it or don't understand you or what you say.
  - Some of you are getting bigger than your parents or already have.
  - Some of you our culture calls 'young adults'

**But to honor your parents, Eph 6 says obey them 'in the Lord, for this is right'**

Jesus was in that stage of life that His culture considered a young adult,

- He truly did know more than His parents or the rabbis in Jerusalem.
- He was probably taller than mom, she didn't get it, or understand what was going on.

He said in Lk 2:49 '*Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?*'

*And they **did not understand** the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and **was submissive to them**. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and **in favor with God and man.**'*

**Notice the order, God and man, honoring parents and it went favorably with Him**

'Jesus obeyed his parents—and he was perfect and they were not! If you ever have a moment where you think, "I know so much more than my parents. In fact, I feel like I'm living life much better than my parents. I'm much closer to perfection than my parents"...[that was actually true of Jesus and only Him but] Jesus never disobeyed...[as a parent I] treasure that in my heart too! In all things, Jesus—the second person of the Trinity, perfect in all his ways—was submissive.'<sup>9</sup>

**If anyone could say 'I'm not a child, I don't have to obey,' it would be God in teenage flesh!**

Jesus perfectly obeyed imperfect parents and always honored His Father in heaven (John 8:41).

*'Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will but as you will.'*

- Kids, ask your parents, appeal respectfully if it's hard, but honor their will, not yours.

Don't make decisions or plans with friends or parents of others if you haven't asked yours first.

- Hiding things dishonors parents, it won't go well with you and you won't enjoy life.

Boys and girls, obey your parents in the Lord (ask His help), right away and with a right attitude

**If you haven't, ask forgiveness from Jesus and your parents and be like Jesus with His**

- b. Care for parents to the end of their life.** Jesus did this to the end of His life on the cross.
- Jesus made sure His mom would be cared for, taken into the home of her 'son' John.
  - I've seen many here honor aging parents by taking them into their home later in life.
  - I've also seen honor in visiting parents in their home.
  - You honor them by time, taking time and talking with them.

James says pure religion includes visiting widows in their time of need

1 Tim 5 says honor ‘widows who are really in need...if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God...If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.’

- Jesus rebuked Pharisees who failed to honor in that way.

Ryken: ‘Honoring...means speaking well...It also means talking to parents, letting them know what’s happening...adults have major decisions...[and] honor their fathers and mothers by seeking their counsel...listening to what they say, caring for their needs, and strengthening the family ties in any way we can. The fifth commandment remains in force even after children grow up and move out on their own...loving them and appreciating them. It means caring for them to the very end of their lives ...make sure that their parents get all the physical, medical, spiritual, and emotional care they need.’<sup>10</sup>

**c. Communicate honorably in all stages of life.** Words to honor parents no matter how old: “Hi, mom.” “Yes, dad...” “Thank you, mom...” “I’m sorry, dad...” “I love you, mom&dad...”

- Never disrespect your parents in how you speak to them,
  - o or how you speak of them to others.

Young adults, if you’re attracted to someone who speaks badly of parents, that’s ugly to God.

- if a girl doesn’t submit to her dad when she disagrees, she won’t to the guy she marries.

You think ‘it’s different with me, she thinks I’m great...’ she thought dad was too, years ago!

- If you’re a girl with a guy who dishonors your parents or his, he’ll later dishonor you.

If you speak against or lead any friend against parents, God warns it won’t go well with you

- If you’ve dishonored your parents or other parents,
  - o repent, ask forgiveness, get help by mature believers.

#### **RICK HOLLAND STORY OF DATING COUPLE?**

Some parents caused you pain decades ago, some aren’t still alive, still honor their memory.

- I’ve seen unforgiveness or bitterness consume people,
- but freedom as they let go of hurts (and love sinful parents if they’re still alive).

If you’re an adult with parents still alive, honor them by asking their advice (even if unsaved).

- I’ve heard adults here speak dishonorably of their parents.
  - o Repent of that and resist that evil.

It isn’t ok to dishonor other parents (I hear of moms talking of parents they don’t respect).

- If you have a loving concern, talk to that parent,
  - o don’t talk about them behind their back (or gossip about their kids).

Pray for parents in this church trying to honor God and honor them by encouraging them.

- honor your parents by asking how you can pray for them or how you can help them.

*Let’s pray now for God to help us in our families. Our Father in heaven, we thank you for our fathers and mothers on earth you gave us. We thank you that Jesus kept your law perfectly that we break and ask for His grace to honor parents so it may go well with us, and for your glory.*

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<sup>1</sup> As quoted by Philip Graham Ryken, *Exodus*, p. 612.

<sup>2</sup> Al Mohler, *Words from the Fire: Hearing the Voice of God in the Ten Commandments* (Moody, 2009), 103.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 19:19.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Boston, *The Whole Works of Thomas Boston* (Aberdeen: George and Robert King, 1848), 2:220.

<sup>5</sup> Kevin DeYoung, *The Ten Commandments*, 89.

<sup>6</sup> Isaiah 57:1 (NIV84): “The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil.”

<sup>7</sup> John 11:25-26.

<sup>8</sup> NIV84.

<sup>9</sup> DeYoung, 87.

<sup>10</sup> Ryken, *Exodus*, 610–11.