

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT: HONOR PARENTS

Part 2 of LOVE PEOPLE. Exodus 20:12.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. July 10, 2022.

INTRODUCING THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

The context

The purpose

The difficulty

Four big questions

WHAT DOES THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

The meaning of honor

The status of parents

HOW SERIOUSLY DOES GOD TAKE THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?

Honoring our parents represents honoring God our Father

Deuteronomy 14:1 (ESV) "You are the sons of the LORD your God."

Isaiah 63:14b (ESV) you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

Honoring for our parents pleases the Lord

Colossians 3:20 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Dishonoring our parents displeases the Lord

Leviticus 20:9 (ESV) For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him (cf., Deuteronomy 21:18-21).

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT MAKE?

The fifth commandments produces a better society

The fifth commandment produces loving people

The fifth commandment produces faith

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline (chastening) and instruction (words) of the Lord.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO KEEP THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?

The Anglican Catechism

I should love, serve, respect, and care for my parents all their lives, and should obey them in all things that are reasonable and conform to God's Law.

When we are young and still at home:

Ephesians 6:1-2 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
2 "Honor your father and mother" ...

As we get older and leave the nest:

Proverbs 23:22 (ESV) Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

When our parents grow old and need help:

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.

When our parents are unsafe to be around:

NEXT STEPS - THIS WEEK

During the week, take some steps to reflect on and apply today's Bible teaching. Do this alone, or with a friend, or in your small group.

Why does the Lord give parents the vital role of raising kids to know and love him? Why not assign this role to professional teachers or a government agency? For some insights, read Deuteronomy 6.

What happens in families, neighborhoods, schools, and churches when children do not honor their parents at home and, therefore, do not know how to honor anyone else?

What are some factors that make honoring parents more difficult?

Are you harboring bitterness because of the way your parents treated you? Based on Peter's teaching and your own research/experience, what are some steps you can take to let go of your resentment? How do passages such as Ephesians 4:31-32 and Isaiah 53:6 help you to let go and live free?

What changes do you need to make in order to well-honor your parents at this stage in their lives? Pray about this, asking the Lord for insights.

Have you been to Jesus for cleansing and forgiveness for all the ways you have failed to keep the fifth commandment? If not, confess to him now. He will take away your guilt or shame or regrets. Picture it all nailed to the cross with Christ and hear him say, "It is finished - paid in full" (John 19:28-30).