

***The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Authority And Accountability***  
Deuteronomy 21:18 – 21; Matthew 15:1 – 11; Matthew 19: 16 – 26;  
**Ephesians 6: 1 – 9 (Sermon)**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment is ***“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”*** (Exodus 20:12)

Just as the 1st Commandment is the basis for our spiritual relationship with our Heavenly Father, the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment is the basis for our relationship with other people.

To honor means to show respect for a person’s position and authority.

Parents are the first authority a person encounters in life.

And God established families and parents as the ones having authority in the home.

We are to honor our parents because God placed our parents in positions of authority.

Notice God did not put an age limit in this command.

It doesn’t matter whether you are a young child, a teenager, or an adult.

We are all to honor our parents.

God gave us the command, ***“honor your father and mother”***, because God knows we all are basically selfish; we all want everything to go our way; and it is very easy it is for children to develop a disrespectful attitude toward their mother and father.

You do not have to teach a baby to cry and pitch a fit when they do not get what they want.

And most teenagers think their parents do not understand.

They think parents are ignorant and *“behind the times.”*

God gave us this command to honor our mother and father because God knows that the home is the first place we must learn respect for authority.

When a person learns submission to authority in the home they will know how to respond to other people with authority over them; such as school teachers, older people, police, Elders and Deacons, law makers, etc.

If parents let a child get away with rebelling against their authority that child will not respect other people with authority over them.

If a child grows up getting their way by pouting, hitting, and / or manipulating, they will make that kind of behavior a part of any relationship.

If respect to authority is going to be part of our culture respect for authority must be taught and enforced in the family structure.

It does not take a genius to figure out that the reason there is so much crime and violence in our society today is because people did not learn to respect the authority in the home.

In Ephesians 6:2 we read; ***“this is the first commandment with a promise.”***

Then the promise is stated in verse 3 ***“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”***

While it is true that children who obey their parents will avoid a lot of sinful behavior and danger that could threaten or shorten their lives; I do not believe that is an individual promise.

I do not think God is saying that if you respect your parents’ authority you will live to be 100 years old.

I believe that this promise was a national promise that God gave to the Israelite people.

You see if a person learns to respect authority in the home that nation will be strong and that nation will live long.

But if our children do not respect authority, in time our nation will grow weak and eventually the foundation of our society will crumble.

This promise is true for any Christian country.

Respect for authority is essential for the well-being of any society and respect for authority must be learned and enforced in the home.

Whether it is at home, in church, at the workplace, or as people of a nation, we are called to honor the authorities God has placed over us.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:13-15 ***“Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.”***

At home it is our parents. At school it is the teachers.

In church we are to honor our Elders, our Deacons, Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders, and our pastors.

We are to honor their decisions as well as the office they hold.

Hebrews 13:17 was addressed to church members and it commands us to ***“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”***

Even angels are to submit to authority.

In Jude 6 we read; ***“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home - these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”***

These angels transgressed into God’s authority and they were severely punished. And God will surely punish us if we reject His authority

As we get older the parent-child relationship reverses.

As our parents age, we are commanded to respect and honor them.

As adults there are three ways that we can honor and respect our aging parents.

We are to accept them, appreciate them, and affirm them.

We are to accept them as they are.

To accept your aging parents does not mean pretending that they are perfect.

It does not mean ignoring their mistakes. It does not mean agreeing with everything they say.

But we need to honor them by accepting them because God choose your parents to bring you into this world.

Even if you had parents that abandoned you or mistreated you remember God’s promise in Romans 8: 28; ***“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him ...”***

As adults we are to appreciate our parents.

Remember you parents took care of you, provided for you, taught you, and sacrificed for you while you were growing up.

As adults we need to show them that we appreciate all of their efforts.

As adults we are to affirm our parents.

That means calling them regularly, visiting them frequently, helping them with physical chores, and caring for them when they are feeble of mind and / or body.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, Jesus saw that His mother would be provided for by having The Apostle John take care of her.

Proverbs 23:22 says; ***”Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old”.***

It is easier to honor our parents when we are younger because we need them; they are of use to us.

But the older our parents get the less we need them.

And in some cases it becomes a burden to care for them.

We have our children and we have busy schedules.

Parents have a need to know how their children are doing.

And it is only natural to know that they made some kind of positive contributions in your life.

We need to stay in touch with our parents and to share our life with them.

Every time we do little acts of kindness for our parents we are obeying our Lord's command to honor your father and mother.

Remember, it is our responsibility to take care of our elderly parents when they are old.

It is not the government's responsibility to care for our parents.

The government can provide facilities to help us but it is our responsibility to care for them.

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:8 ***"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."***

The physical in The Bible always points us to a spiritual truth.

So the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment also commands all of us to honor, respect, and obey our Heavenly Father.

If a little child does not respect and obey their earthly parents there is little hope for our children to honor, to respect, and to obey their Heavenly Father when they are teenagers and adults.

The first sin recorded in The Bible occurred in the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Eve to question God's authority over her.

And as you know there were disastrous results when Eve sinned by questioning God's authority.

The only way for us to experience fulfillment in this life is to honor God's authority by obeying all of His commandments.

In Ecclesiastics 12:13 King Solomon tells us that nothing makes sense if we do not acknowledge God and God's authority over every aspect of our life.

King Solomon concluded everything is meaningless unless we ***"fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."*** (Ecclesiastics 12:13)

There is a correlation between the quality of life we enjoy and our recognition of God's authority over us.

Compliance with God's commandment to honor our father and mother is necessary for us to enjoy a meaningful relationship with The Lord.

God emphasizes authority because submission to authority goes against our human nature and it is difficult for most of us to submit to those who are in authority over us.

Even if our parents were not perfect we are to learn to respect and submit to their authority.

We all have weaknesses, faults, and inconsistencies and we all make mistakes.

Only God is our perfect Father.

Even the best parents have made mistakes and sinned.

Romans 3:23 says, ***“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”***

None of us have perfect parents and you are not going to be perfect parents either.

Parenthood is something you learn on the job; no warming up practices.

You learn on the move.

So don't be too hard on your children or on your parents.

Understand where they are coming from.

They don't always make the right moves or say the right things.

Learn to accept them.

If we all are sinners then there will be parents who are abusive and totally irresponsible.

We are not called to accept their sinful ways; we are called to recognize their position as parents.

God is very serious about us honoring our mothers and fathers.

In Deuteronomy 27:16 we read; ***“Cursed is anyone who dishonors their father or mother.”***

And in Leviticus 20:9 we read; ***“Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death. Because they have cursed their father or mother, their blood will be on their own head.”***

God places authority figures in our lives to teach us submission and obedience.

God is also very serious about us honoring and submitting to His authority over us.

We will enjoy life when we are submissive to God's authority and when we honor and submit to the authorities God has placed over us.

And there are severe consequences when we rebel and disobey God's commandments.

Compliance with God's commandment to ***“Honor your mother and father ...”*** is essential in order to have a free and peaceful society.

Submission and authority it is essential in order for us to have pleasant relationships with other people.

Likewise obedience and submission to The Lord's authority is essential for us to have a meaningful relationship with The Lord.

**AMEN**