

DO YOU LOVE YOUR PARENTS

Introduction:

1. The Commandment

A) The clarity of the command – not much confusion about what is said ... but what does it mean?

> Children obey your parents (Ephesians 6:1a)

Word study for obey - to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority. (Matt 8:23-27)

Just as the winds and the sea “hearken to and submit to” the authoritative voice of Jesus

So children are to hearken to and submit to the authoritative voice of their parents

> Children honor your mother and father (Ephesians 6:2a)

Word study for honor - to prize, fix a valuation upon; to revere: honor, value.

Honor is an attitude of the heart (Matt 15:8)

> Children are to “fear” their parents (Lev. 19:1-3)

Word study for fear - to revere; to frighten: awe and reverence

The sentiment of honor, reverence, is one of the noblest and purest of which our nature is capable. The power of perceiving what is worthy of honor, the willingness to acknowledge it, the unselfishness that feels it no degradation, but a pleasure, to render it – all this is itself honorable and ennobling; nothing brings more true honor than giving honor to others. This disposition ought to be cultivated most carefully in the child as an important part of his education. It is one of the chief elements of a noble character and a preparation for rendering to God the honor due to Him.

Andrew Murray
How to Raise your Children for Christ

B) A “Qualifier”

> Obey your parents, “in the Lord” (Ephesians 6:1b)

This implies that obeying and honoring our parents is an expression of our obeying God

This also opens the door to discretion (Acts 5:29)

> Our love for God exceeds our love for parents. (Luke 12:51-53; 14:25-27)

2. Why Should I Obey this Command?

A) It is right (Ephesians 6:1c)

> When I love God with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength I want to obey Him

Raising children who obey and honor their father / mother is a matter of right and wrong; sin and righteousness

B) God promises a blessing

> That you may live long on the earth (Ephesians 6:2b)

For Israel, keeping this command is directly tied to God's blessing of Israel in the land of promise (Leviticus 26:3; 14-15)

In Ephesians, it seems that the promise is more accurately likened to the pattern found in the wisdom literature

D) The background for the command

> The Ten Commandments – the Moral Law of God

> Notice, the first commandment that addresses the horizontal impact of the law (Exodus 20:12)

Obeying and honoring parents is a moral issue - not a behavioral or physiological issue

There are no excuses that justify or explain a disobedient and disrespectful child

APPLICATION

This whole parent / child relationship works best when both sides are under God's authority in their lives

* Sin, rebelling against God and His authority, always brings division, strife, anger, etc.

Parents, if you want what is best for your child, you will teach them to obey and honor you

How they respond to you and your authority is a trustworthy indicator of how they are / will respond to God and His authority

Although the relationship changes, adult children are to honor their mother and father

Jesus addressed adult children's responsibility to honor their parents (Mark 7:6-13)

Parents to provide for their children (2 Cor 12:14-15; 1 Tim 5:3-4, 8)