

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

(Exodus 20:12)

The life of every son and daughter ought to be marked by honoring the ones whom God has used to give them life and to guide them through life. God issues this command in His Word

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you" (Exo. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-3). Regardless of their flaws, faults and failures, our fathers and mothers are given to us by God as His precious gifts to treasure, to love and to honor. Let's consider these three vital lessons on honoring our parents.

1. Honoring our parents is a _____.

Our obedience to God's commandments flows out of our love and gratitude to the One who saves us. The Lord instructs us to keep His commandments not as way of getting right with God, but as a way of pleasing and loving the God who has made us right with Himself through Christ. In Matthew 22:37-39, our Lord summarized the Ten Commandments as loving God and loving people. When it comes to loving others, God's moral law begins at home. Honoring our father and mother is a priority command in terms of our duty to others (Exo. 20:12). The word for honor is the biblical word for the "weightiness" of God's glory and majesty. God uses the same word in the way we should treat our parents. We must not treat them lightly. We must give them "weighty" respect, highly esteem them and greatly value them for their God-given role and authority.

2. Honoring our parents is a _____.

This command to honor our parents indicates a present, continuous and a lifetime responsibility. In fact, there's a natural progression in honoring our parents across a lifetime. In honoring our father and mother, we will journey through different seasons of their lives as we seek to esteem and love them. In the early years, while we are still young children or teenagers, we must honor our parents through compliance and obedience (Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20; Lev. 20:9; Prov. 30:17). In the middle years, when we are already adults, we must honor our parents by showing them appreciation and affection (Prov. 4:1; 20:7; 22:1). In the latter years, when our parents are in their sunset years, we must honor them through our care and attention (Matt. 15:4-6).

3. Honoring our parents is a _____.

There is a divine promise and reward attached to the commandment to honor our parents. The Apostle Paul puts it this way in Ephesians 6:2: *"Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."* Those who honor their parents will be honored and rewarded by God with the gift of life. The greater focus of this promise is not the quantity of years we will have here on earth, but the quality of life that we will enjoy under the full blessing and the divine favor of God.
