

How to...Honor My Parents

May 10 & 11, 2008

Honor your father and mother. Exodus chapter 20 verse 12 (59)

- *God repeats this command 7 more times in the New Testament*

Why does God make such a big deal about this command??

1. Because there are no perfect parents or families

- ***Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.***

Romans chapter 3 verse 23 (859)

- Even when an individual parent is not worthy of honor, God is teaching us that the position of parenthood is worthy of honor
- God is referred to as "Father God" or "God the Father" hundreds of times in the Bible

2. Because respect for authority begins at home

- **Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God....** *Romans chapter 13 verse 1 (866)*

- This is a critical lesson every child must learn. It determines how well we do at school, in your career, relationships, etc.
- In life, there are lots of times you have to do what somebody tells you, whether you want to or not. As kids, God wants us to learn to respect authority
- Parents, do your kids a favor! Teach them to respect & honor authority. This not only does them well on a human level, but sets the stage for them to respect & honor God!

3. Because how I relate to my parents affects every other relationship in life

- This is THE major forming-factor in life
- Your style of relating to others is set at home...by how you relate to your parents
- Many marriages have been destroyed because of unresolved issues with parents...that are being taken out on the spouse
- Studies show that those who honor their parents have more friends & are liked more by others than those who don't honor their parents
- Kids who don't relate well with their parents can easily become adults who struggle in relating to God

(over)

How do I honor my parents? It depends on my stage of life...

As a child & teenager, I honor my parents by obeying & respecting them - *Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.*

Ephesians chapter 6 verse 1 (898)

- To obey my parents is to do what they say & do it willfully, pleasantly, immediately
- God expects this from me as long as I'm dependant on them
- God expects this from me as long as what they ask is not illegal or immoral, because I "belong to the Lord"

As a young-adult & beyond, I honor my parents by accepting them

- The older I get, the more I see my parents' shortcomings & faults
- I honor my parents by accepting them
- ***Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*** *Ephesians chapter 4 verse 2 (896)*
- You say, "But I didn't choose my parents!" Great! Your parents didn't choose you either! You're stuck with each other!
- Acceptance DOESN'T mean you pretend they're perfect or that you agree with them in everything.

Accepting my parents means that...

- I appreciate them for bringing me into this world, regardless of their parenting skills - because they gave me something no one else could give me...my life!
- I listen to what they have to say, realizing that it's OK to disagree with them - ***Listen to (hear intelligently, be attentive too) your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old.*** *Proverbs chapter 23 verse 22 (497)*
- I forgive them, whether they ask for it or not - ***Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*** *Colossians chapter 3 verse 13 (904)*
 - ✓ To forgive is to give up my right to hurt back

As an adult, I honor my parents by affirming them

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.

Proverbs chapter 3 verse 27 (483)

- Stay in touch with your parents
- Share the details of your life with them. Listen & allow them to share the details of their life with you
- Ask for & listen to their counsel, even if you choose to do something different
- Speaking of kids, the Bible says, ***"...their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God."*** *1 Timothy chapter 5 verse 4 (912)*

Next week: How to break the power of your secrets

The video used in the service was Anita Renfroe, from her "Total MomSense" DVD