



Lecture # 15 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty To Others (Part 1):

Commandment Five Concerns the Family—Never Dishonor Parents, Exodus 20:12

Exodus 20:12 (NASB)

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

(Exodus 20:12) Introduction— Children— Family— Parents— Society—

Commandments, The Ten: the family is of vital importance, for the family was the first institution formed upon earth.

God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, and they became man and wife; then Eve bore a son. Thereby, the first family was formed, created as the most important institution, as the foundation of all human life and development that was to follow. It is the family that forms the community, society, and government of nations. It is not enough for men and women to exist. Men and women must become fathers and mothers.

They must give birth to children or else everything human eventually ceases to exist:

- a. Human life would stop.
- b. Human society would stop.
- c. Human government would stop.

The family—father, mother, and child—is the most important institution, the very foundation of society, communities, and nations. As goes the family, so goes society.

The point: every generation must give attention to the family and strengthen it if the human race is to survive. Today, we are fools if we do not strengthen our families, do not strengthen them for our generation and for future generations. The very survival of society and civilization depends upon strong families, upon fathers, mothers, and children who honor and respect one another.

For this reason, we must give attention and fight against the evils of men, the evils that destroy us all.....

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| a. selfishness | n. bitterness |
| b. disrespect | o. revenge |
| c. disobedience | p. hatred |
| d. rebellion | q. hostility |
| e. withdrawal | r. abuse |
| f. coldness | s. murder |
| g. adultery | t. irresponsibility |
| h. immorality | u. greed |



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- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| i. indulgence | v. materialism |
| j. license | w. ungodliness |
| k. alcohol | x. unbelief |
| l. drugs | y. lawlessness |
| m. gambling | |

God established the primacy and importance of the family forever when He created the first man and the first woman. He reinforces the primacy of the family with this great commandment: "**Honor your father and your mother**" ([Exodus 20:12](#)). This is the subject of the present commandment: *Commandment Five Concerns the Family—Never Dishonor Parents*, [Exodus 20:12](#).

1. [Who is to obey this commandment? You \(v.12\).](#)
2. [How long was this commandment to be in force? Forever \(v.12\).](#)
3. [What is the charge of this commandment \(v.12\)?](#)
4. [There are two great promises attached to this commandment \(v.12\).](#)
5. [What is the decision required by this commandment? Obedience \(v.12\).](#)

1. (Exodus 20:12) Commandments, The Ten— Parents— Children— Family— Believers, Duty— Obedience: Who is to obey this commandment?

[Exodus 20:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Who is to obey his father and his mother? Every one of us! Just think for a moment: every person upon earth has, or has had in the past, a father and mother! God commands us—everyone of us—to honor and respect our fathers and mothers. What about abusive parents? They will be discussed in a later point, but for now the point is this: God expects us, He commands us, to honor and respect our fathers and mothers. As the verse says, “Honor your father and your mother” ([Exodus 20:12](#)).

2. (Exodus 20:12) Commandments, The Ten— Family— Parents— Children— Obedience: How long was this commandment to be in force?

[Exodus 20:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Was it meant for Israel alone, meant only for the ancient world? Or has there always been a need for children to honor and respect their parents? How about today? Is there a need today for us to honor our fathers and mothers?



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The answer is obvious. In fact, each of the Ten Commandments meets a very specific need of man, a desperate need that has to be met or else man and society will be destroyed. Glance quickly at each of the commandments and this fact is clearly seen.

The point is just this: God loves man and has determined that man must be saved not destroyed. Therefore, God has reached out to man and given man the Ten Commandments to govern his life and community.

If the family disintegrated, then all the great virtues of life to keep him from destroying himself would soon disappear: honor, respect, concern, responsibility, decency, love, joy, peace—true love, joy, and peace. When the great virtues are weakened, community and society are weakened.

How long then is the fifth commandment to be in force? How many generations of people are to honor their parents? As long as men and women and children live upon earth, we are to honor and obey our parents.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NASB)

¹“**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

²**HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),**

³**SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”**

3. (Exodus 20:12) Commandments, The Ten— Obedience— Children— Parents— Family— Father— Mother: What is the charge of this commandment, "Honor your father and your mother"?

Exodus 20:12 (NASB)

¹²“**Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”**

The first four commandments covered our duty to God. But once we have done our duty to God, note what our very next duty is: to honor our parents.

➤ **The divine order is just this: God first, then our parents.**

Note six points about the charge of this commandment.

1. The Hebrew word *honor* (*kabed*) means “that we are to respect, esteem, and highly regard our parents”. There is even the idea of reverence in the word *honor*: we are to *revere* our parents. The Greek word for *honor* (*timao*) pictures exactly what is meant: it means that we are to esteem and value our parents as precious (**Amplified Bible**); to show them **respect, reverence, kindness, and obedience.**



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Matthew Henry says that in practical terms, the commandment means we are to...

1. respect our parents, reverence them
2. obey our parents
3. submit to the rebukes, instructions, and corrections of our parents
4. listen to our parents' advice, direction, and concern
5. comfort our parents

Thought 1. What does God mean by *honoring our parents*? Scripture tells us:

1. To honor means to obey and respect our parents.

Mark 7:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.’”

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NASB)

¹“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
²HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),
³SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”

Colossians 3:20 (NASB)

²⁰“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”

Exodus 20:12 (NASB)

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Deuteronomy 5:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Matthew 15:4 (NASB)

⁴“For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.’”

2. To honor means to listen to the instructions of our parents; to obey the instructions, never forsaking them.

Proverbs 1:8 (NASB)

⁸“Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching.”

Proverbs 4:1 (NASB)

¹“Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding.”



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Proverbs 4:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰“Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many.

¹¹I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths.

¹²When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble.

¹³Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.”

Proverbs 6:20 (NASB)

²⁰“My son, observe the commandment of your father And do not forsake the teaching of your mother.”

3. To honor means to listen to our parents and never despise them when they are old.

Proverbs 23:22 (NASB)

²²“Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.”

4. To honor means to be wise, never foolish.

Proverbs 10:1 (NASB)

¹“The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.”

Proverbs 15:20 (NASB)

²⁰“A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother.”

5. To honor means to have a testimony of pure and right behavior.

Proverbs 20:11 (NASB)

¹¹“It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself If his conduct [behavior] is pure and right.”

6. To honor means to respect and reverence our parents when they are elderly.

Leviticus 19:3 (NASB)

³“Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am the LORD your God.”

Leviticus 19:32 (NASB)

³²“You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.”



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Job 32:6 (NASB)

⁶“So Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite spoke out and said, “I am young in years and you are old; Therefore I was shy and afraid to tell you what I think.”

Proverbs 23:22 (NASB)

²²“Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.”

7. To honor means to accept the true faith of our parents, their belief in God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:5 (NASB)

⁵“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.”

2 Timothy 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

8. To honor means to respect our parents so much that it carries over to others, honoring and respecting all persons.

1 Timothy 5:1 (NASB)

¹“Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but *rather* appeal to *him* as a father, *to* the younger men as brothers.”

2. Note that mothers are to be honored just as much as fathers, and fathers just as much as mothers: “[Children] honor your father and your mother” ([Exodus 20:12](#)).

Exodus 20:12 (NASB)

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Mothers and fathers are placed on equal footing. God Himself honors and respects mothers as much as fathers and charges all children to honor each equally.

3. Note that every person within the family is mentioned: the child, mother, and father. If our mothers and fathers are living, we are to honor and respect them. **But note this fact as well:** every person in the world, whether young or old (adult), is the child of some father and mother. Thus if every child showed honor and respect to his parents, then every person upon earth would be showing honor and respect to one another. Honor and respect would catch aflame and spread throughout the world.

The implication is clear: the families of the earth and the world as a whole are to be filled with honor and respect. Honor and respect are to flood the hearts and lives of our



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families. If so, then honor and respect will flow out and flood society and civilization. The whole world will be filled with honor and respect. This is God's will; this is one of the main reasons God has given this commandment.

Note: the family is the basic unit of society, the very foundation of society. If honor and respect control the behavior of the family, it will help to control the behavior of our communities and society. God wants *honor and respect* to be the prevailing force flowing out from the hearts of people to one another.

God knows:

- a. if we honor and respect one another, then peace and love will prevail upon the earth.
- b. if we honor and respect one another, then the behavior of men will be controlled.
- c. if we honor and respect one another, there will be no lawlessness and selfishness. There will be only honor and respect for all people—for all the parents and children of the earth.

Thought 1. William Barclay makes **three points that should stir us to keep this commandment**, to always honor our parents:

"With the fifth commandment we come right home, for the fifth commandment is '**Honour your father and your mother**' ([Exodus 20:12](#)).

Exodus 20:12 (NASB)

¹²“**Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.**”

Of all the commandments this should be the easiest to obey.

“**1.** It should be easy to obey this commandment because it is natural to do so. This commandment is, as it were, built into the very structure of life. It is not a commandment which we find only in the Bible. There never was a society of any kind in which this commandment was not accepted as binding. In ancient Greece, for instance, Solon the great law-giver laid it down that, if a son did not support his parents in their old age, when they needed support, he should lose his rights as a citizen. The Greeks believed that to honour parents is part of the basic duty of every citizen of the state. Anyone who has good parents and who does not realise the duty of honouring them is an unnatural person. Nature itself demands that we keep this commandment.”

“**2.** It is a duty of gratitude to keep this commandment. It was our parents who brought us into this world, and we owe them our lives. Of all



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living creatures man takes longest to become able to support and look after himself.

There is a long time when we cannot get ourselves a home or food or clothes, and when we are entirely dependent on our parents; and there is a considerable part of that time when we are so helpless, that a blow would kill us, and, even if nothing was done to us, and we were just alone, we would certainly die. We ought to find it easy to keep this commandment, if only as a matter of gratitude to those to whom we literally owe the fact that we came into the world, and that we survived through the years when we were quite unable to help ourselves, or to get the things necessary to keep body and soul together.”

“Apart from that purely physical side of life, many of us owe a great deal to the care and the love and even to the sacrifice of our parents to give us a good start in life.... We ought to be grateful that in many, many homes the parents do without things and plan and save so that their children should have a chance to do well in life. Of all faults, ingratitude is the ugliest and the most hurting, and not to keep this commandment is to be guilty of ingratitude.”

“3. To honour our parents is a matter of common sense. They have walked the journey of life before us, and therefore they know the dangers and the pitfalls in the way. If you are going on a journey through what is to you an unknown country, a map and a guide-book will be very useful, but most useful of all will be the advice and the experience of one who has already travelled that way.”

“When parents advise their child to do or not to do something, he should understand that it is not because they wish to show their authority or because they are killjoys or because they are old-fashioned, it is because out of their experience they know that the thing is right or wrong, safe or dangerous.”

“The man who will not listen to the voice of experience will certainly end in trouble—and he will deserve all that is coming to him....”

“It is sensible to listen to what our parents tell us, because they have an experience of life that we do not yet possess.”