



Lecture # 16 Part 1

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.”

“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.”

4. Note that this commandment emphasizes one of the great lessons of life, that we learn by example. Children are to learn to honor their parents. How? By the parents showing honor to their parents. The commandment charges all children to honor their parents. Even if they are adults and parents themselves, the adult child is to honor and respect his parents. Parents are to create an atmosphere of honor and respect in the home. By so doing, the parent teaches—sets an example—for his child to honor him. This commandment stresses the awesome importance of parents setting the right example before their children.

Titus 2:7 (NASB)

⁷“In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified.”

Proverbs 22:6 (NASB)

⁶“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”



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God makes it clear: parents have the obligation to teach this commandment and all the other commandments to their children.

Deuteronomy 6:7 (NASB)

⁷“You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Ephesians 6:4 (NASB)

⁴“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

5. What about parents who neglect their children or who abuse their children? Are children to honor and respect parents who are evil, who live in sin and abuse them? The POSB® (N.T. Vol.9) has an excellent comment on this point that is quoted at length because of its importance:

Ephesians 6:1 (NASB)

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

“Children are to obey their parents. The word 'obey' (*hupakouo*) means “to submit to; to comply with; to hearken; to heed; to follow the directions or guidance of some instruction”. When a parent guides and directs a child, the child is to obey the parent. But what about the problems that are so repulsively evident in society: the problems of parental abuse—the problems of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and mental abuse? Is a child to obey a parent when the parent is so devilishly wrong? No! A thousand times no!”

"To obey means to obey *in the Lord*.

Note the command again: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord.”

The phrase “in the Lord” means at least two things.

- a. “There is a limit to the child's obedience. When a parent is not acting in the Lord, he is not to be obeyed. The Lord has nothing whatsoever to do with the filth of unrighteousness and abuse of precious children. If a child can break away and free himself from such parental corruption, he has every right to be freed from his parent. The Lord came to set men free from the abuse and the filth of sin, not to enslave men to it, and especially not to enslave children to it.”

“One of the most severe warnings ever issued in all of history was issued by the Lord Jesus to adults who abuse children:”

Mark 9:42-48 (NASB)

⁴²“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his



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neck, he had been cast into the sea.

⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,

⁴⁴ [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]

⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell,

⁴⁶ [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]

⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell,

⁴⁸ where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.”

“The abusing parent had better heed, for one of the things that God will not tolerate—absolutely not tolerate—is the abuse of a child. We must proclaim the Word of God: children are to obey their parents, but they are to obey only if the parents' desire and instructions are *in the Lord*. If a parent is beating a child black and blue or sexually abusing a child, the child should go to some other adult he feels close to and ask for help. And ministers of the Lord—ministers who are called to proclaim Christ and to do what they can to bring His righteousness to earth—must teach the truth from the pulpits of the world.”

- b. “The phrase '*in the Lord*' also tells why the child is to obey his parents. '**Children, obey your parents in the Lord**'—obeying your parents is right; it is of the Lord; it pleases the Lord; therefore, obey them. When they guide and instruct you, follow them (cp. [Col. 3:20](#)).”

Colossians 3:20 (NASB)

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

“Lehman Strauss points out that obedience is the first law of the universe—that the law of obedience regulates everything in the world: the stars, the planets, the seasons. Even man himself tries to govern the world by the law of obedience. He wants obedience in the state, at work, at play, and at home. The point is simply this: the law of obedience is the very nature of things, at the very core of the universe and of man's life and behavior upon earth. Therefore, it is to be expected that God would command children to obey their parents. Children are to obey—obey because it pleases the Lord and it is the right thing to do.”



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“Note the emphasis here; it is striking. Children are not told to obey parents because it pleases the parent, but because it pleases the Lord. Pleasing one's parents is, of course, a reason for obeying them. But the *first* reason for obeying parents is that it pleases the Lord. The child is to know the Lord to such a degree that he is continually thinking about the Lord and about pleasing Him. The child is to walk so closely with the Lord that his mind is constantly upon the Lord—upon what he can do to please the Lord. When the child so knows the Lord, then obeying his parents will become an automatic response.”

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 (NASB)

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

Colossians 3:20 (NASB)

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

Proverbs 1:8 (NASB)

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

Proverbs 6:20 (NASB)

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

Proverbs 23:22 (NASB)

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

Proverbs 7:1 (NASB)

¹ **“My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you.”**

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 20:11 (NASB)

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

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (NASB)

¹ **“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no delight in them.”**