

“Honoring Your Parents in Every Stage of Life”

Exodus 20:12

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“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12 (English Standard Version)

GOD COMMANDS BELIEVERS TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS IN EVERY STAGE OF LIFE.

“**honor**” = Hebrew - *kabbed* = “to make heavy” = to respect them and, as a result, treat with high regard

Three Scriptural Aspects of “Honor”

- Honor is a heart-attitude of respect, displayed in tangible ways (listening, respectful demeanor, deferential attitude, gratefulness, graciousness).
- Until a child leaves home, honoring parents includes a heart-attitude of submission displayed first by obedience.

See Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20.

He [Jesus] went down with them [his parents] then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. Luke 2:51a (New Jerusalem Bible)

See Proverbs 6:20-23.

- For an adult child, honoring aged parents means providing, if needed, financial support.

See Ezekiel 22:7; Genesis 45:9-11a; the book of Ruth; Mark 7:9-13.

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. 1 Timothy 5:4 (ESV)

OBEDIENCE TO THE 5TH COMMANDMENT PUTS BELIEVERS IN A PLACE TO RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISE.

"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Ephesians 6:2-3 (ESV)

The promise: life and well-being

Bottom Line: Children who bless their parents become parents who are blessed by their children.

APPLICATION TIP (to be done this week at home): Examine the three aspects of "honor": The heart-attitudes of respect and submission, and the willingness to provide whatever support your parents need in their old age. Think and become self-aware about where you are in each of those aspects of honor. Now pray and seek God's next step in honoring your parents.