

Series: Striving Together For the Faith as a Family

THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG

EXODUS 20:12

Text: Exodus 20:12

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¹² *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

Introduction:

As we have been looking at over the last few weeks these commandments and how they relate to the family we will continue this thought this morning.

Again remember the first four commandments dealt with our relationship and walk with God; the rest deal with our relationship toward others.

Remember our relationship with other will not be what it ought to be if our relationship with God is not as it ought to be.

Today this is the first of the commandments that deal with our relationship toward others.

This rule is a fundamental responsibility in human relations.

Common sense tells us we need some rules for preserving and strengthening family life.

Statistics show family life is crumbling.

Respect for parents has become a forgotten virtue. Old Testament places great emphasis on aged and parents particularly.

Note:

Exodus 21:15

¹⁵ *And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.*

Exodus 21:17

¹⁷ *And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.*

Proverbs 22:6

⁶ *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

This is definitely one of the commandments that's taught again in the New Testament.

Matthew 19:19

¹⁹ *Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Ephesians 6:2-3

² Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Failure to honor parents can be an indication of a spiritual problem.

The Word of God points out that it is an indication of spiritual issues.

Romans 1:21-32

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is

unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Note:

1. THIS REALITY OF THIS COMMAND

Exodus 20:12

¹² *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

- This command does not require that we think our parents are perfect, because they're not.

Romans 3:23

²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

- This command does not require us to believe our parents are always right, because they're not.

Romans 3:10

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

This command does not require us to submit to a parent that is abusive and has I'll will for our wellbeing.

If that is taking place then the law needs to be contacted.

By the way an adult that would abuse (not discipline) a child should be dealt with and in my opinion in the same way the abused the child.

Illustration:

Placing a baby in boiling water to keep it from crying.

This is the reality of this command, but note also:

2. THE REASON FOR THIS COMMAND

Exodus 20:12

¹² *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

A. The National Reason

- This was for Israel
- A promise of long life in the land that God was giving them

B. The Spiritual Reason

- This pleases the Lord

Colossians 3:20

²⁰ *Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*

We ought to honor our parents in order to honor and please the Lord.

- It the Right Thing to Do

Ephesians 6:1

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

Notice not only the National Reason and the Spiritual Reason but also:

C. The Practical Reason

- This commandment carries with it a promise

Because: One day you will want your children to honor you

Children do learn how to respond to others by how we interact with them

Good citizenship begins at home, and learning how to be good Christians begins at home as well

Ephesians 6:1-4

¹ *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.* ² *Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)* ³ *That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.* ⁴ *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

Colossians 3:20-21

²⁰ *Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.* ²¹ *Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

- Parents we are to teach our children the love of God

We can't brow beat our children with the Bible to get saved

There's a lot of kids that think there saved because they learned a part just like an actor in a play

Note not only the Reality of this Command and the Reason for this Command but lastly:

3. OUR RESPONSE TO THIS COMMANDMENT

How do we obey this command?

A. Through Wilful Obedience

This is not natural

Our natural tendency is to do our own thing and go our own way

When we choose to obey them it is an honor to them.
(We are not under the threat of death as they were in
the O.T.)

We honor our parents by willful obedience to them,
because we love the Lord and we want to please Him

Not only do we obey this command through willful
obedience but also:

B. Expressed Appreciation

I am talking about thanking them for all that they do

Some young people have the attitude that they
deserve this or that simply because they are alive

We honor our parents when we express our
appreciation to them for all that they do

That is having a grateful spirit

C. Frequent Communication

Many of us have bought into the devil's lie..."The
generation gap"

I just can't talk to my parents.... or I just can't talk to
my kids

When in reality ... we just don't talk....

Not only do we obey this command through willful obedience, expressed appreciation and frequent communication but also:

D. As Parents by Setting the Example

Teaching your own children to respect their grandparents

Caring for them when they're frail

Applying the principles in our own life that we want to see in our children's life

Note:

Proverbs 10:1

¹ The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Our relationship to our parents should be a reflection of our relationship to our Heavenly Father.

Close:

We not always agree with our parents, and we may not always understand them, but they are our parents and as such they deserve our love and respect.