

Making Life Make Sense (Transformed by the 10 Commandments)

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **1John 5:2**

Session 5:

“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**

The Commandment of Respect for Parental Authority

God instructs in commandments 5-10 how to define proper relationships and standards of conduct. This series of commandments deal with individuals, families, groups and society. Since family is the building block of any human society, God starts here with instruction that is foundational to a society. When you look at today’s culture of disrespect between children and parents and the level of disrespect for common civility, we can see how this commandment and its disregard has played out over generations. Any individual or group, including whole nations that understand the importance of strong families, reap the rewards of an improved relationship and blessing from God. Our abuse of each other is horrifying, the level of exploitation and abuse is dis-heartening, we need to learn how to live, work and dwell with each other harmoniously.

- God attempted with this commandment to set Israel on a lifetime course of peaceful relationships.
- Learning the responsibility of our own character is the first course of action.
- The fifth commandment is the first of a series of commandments that show from whom and how the fundamentals of respect and honor are effectively learned.
- Today’s culture of dishonor has left it’s mark on the lives of so many, young men do not have models or a concept of chivalry before them and young women have no expectation of the same.

Engage:

How do we help children in their development in teaching this commandment?

Engage:

In your opinion, what is the main thing God was setting us up for as humans with this command?

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “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.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:1-4**

Commandment with a Promise:

We can see the command comes with an attached promise, which has life-altering consequences. I once spoke with a funeral director who told me if he did not have young people and teens in his business he would be out of business. That’s a sad commentary about our world and how far we have drifted from Gods command. The verse above also informs Fathers of their role in the rearing of their children.

- Its been said a child gets their understanding of God from seeing how their father interacts with God.
- God places the primary role for teaching children the basic principles of life directly on the shoulders of parents. The ability for parents to succeed in this role depends heavily on their dependence upon the heavenly Father.

- Remember, four Commandments that emphasize the importance of a personal relationship with God precede the Commandment to give honor to our parents.

“And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” **Malachi 4:6**

- When we as parents think of ourselves as children, as in children of God, it becomes clear and just as important for us to respect and obey our heavenly Father, as it is for our children to respect and obey us.

Engage:

What impact do you believe fathers have on children in our generation, and why?

Engage:

Do you believe in a (demonic) master plan which has led to the breakdown of the family in leading children to God, and what is the visible fruit of that failure?

Commandment of Honor:

Children, especially teens, search for their place in society. They need guidance, instruction and love along with reassurance. This verse in Deuteronomy encourages us that when we honor God attentively, we have the tools to answer the questions our children have about life. We help children in their search for meaning, leading them to the only one that can provide it.

²⁰ “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?’ ²¹ then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **Deuteronomy 6:20-21**

- Parents who assist their children in their search for life’s answers should always lead them to God’s word. This arms them with a life tool, teaching them to rely on God’s judgment and not their own.
- Children should be free in the home to ask questions of all types and receive guidance with these questions; even if the need to get back to them with some answers arises, there should always be dialogue.
- We have “Elder Abuse” today with grown children engaged in the mistreatment of older parents.

Engage:

What do you believe leads to this problem called Elder abuse -think carefully about your answer?

Commandment of Longevity

It is the Fathers desire to bless His children with long-life, we see those promises throughout scripture, yet promises of longevity are often attached to something we must do.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:4**

- Discipline and instruction in the Lord keeps a family on track with their God and fuels that home with honor.
- Moses, when he reviewed the Commandments with the people, he added another blessing, that of things going well with us wherever we dwell.

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ***Deuteronomy 5:16***

Engage:

***Psalm 11:3* speak about the foundations being shaken and how do you believe things will get back on track - if it's not possible societally -what about homes individually?**

Engage:

Discuss some of the mistakes you have made relative to this discussion in the rearing of your children and what have you corrected?