

The Commandments Of Our Creator God

[Part 4]

Fifth Commandment stated –

“Honour your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

Youthful violence and insolence characterise the age in which we live.

The modern “*do-as-you-please*” world does **not** make a child happy and balanced.

Rather a child wants solid walls of discipline and rules around them, defining their world and telling them exactly how far they can go.

This is just as will be expected of them in the adult world.

A child must be disciplined to do things they do **not** necessarily want to do.

Any lack of deep-seated respect for constituted authority begins in infancy and will continue throughout life. [**Proverbs 22:6**]

Long before a child is even aware of the existence of the church, school or nation, they are forming attitudes and habits towards those who are their superiors in school, neighbourhood and workplace.

The first four commandments define human relationship with the Creator God.

This command to honour parents is placed first among those commands that govern human relationships.

This is not only chief in importance but when we understand its full meaning it acts as a “*bridge*” between the two sections of the Creator God’s laws for humanity.

The Creator God knew this link when He inspired it to be the first commandment with promise.

Why honour our parents?

If only every parent knew the tremendous influence upon a child’s later life that obedience or disobedience to this commandment has.

Exodus 21:15, 17 [King James] *“And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.” ... “And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.”*

This is how important to the Creator God obedience to this commandment is.

The relationship a child has with its parents is the exact type of the spiritual relationship between true Christians and God.

Lessons of character learnt in this physical relationship will last for the rest of eternity in the child.

In the eyes of a small child, a parent stands in the place of God, for the parent is the child’s provider, protector, lover, teacher and law-giver.

A child’s early teaching and response to the relationship with their parents will in large measure, determine their response to the larger relationship with society.

Ultimately, it is certain to affect their relationship with their spiritual Father.

Ephesians 6:1-3 [NIV] *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honour your father and mother’, which is the first commandment with a promise, ‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’”*

The original command to honour our parents applies to all of us throughout our lives.

The word “*honour*” has a much larger meaning than that of obedience.

The word indicates a high respect as for worth, merit and rank, it denotes a feeling of high esteem and reverence.

A person who has properly obeyed their parents in childhood later expresses their honour for them in a deeper appreciation of the comforts and training they provided them as a child.

This honour expresses itself in courtesy, thoughtfulness and kindly deeds.

As we mature, it becomes increasingly evident that untold hours of work, of anxious thought and agonised prayer were bestowed for our welfare by faithful and loving parents.

It should become a delight for every decent man and woman to return this love which our parents created.

In the evening of life, many parents long for this affection and fellowship with their children more, perhaps, than for any other blessing.

Let us all think and act on this opportunity to return the love our parents so freely gave, before it is too late.

To the everlasting shame of our professing Christian society, thousands of elderly parents are reduced to living on a mere pittance that comes to them through government agencies.

In all too many cases, the children are able but unwilling to provide additional comforts as generous as their ability allows.

1 Timothy 5:4, 8 [NIV] *“But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.” ... “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*

This is in the context of support for widows, but is applicable to both parents in their final years.

Jesus Christ gave one of the most forceful interpretations of the fifth commandment in its application to this very problem.

Mark 7:9-13 [NIV] *“And he said to them: ‘You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, “Honour your father and your mother,” and, “Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.” But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: “Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban” (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.’”*

Jesus Christ condemned these hypocrites.

His words plainly teach that a Christian **must** give material and financial assistance to their aged parents if it is possible and their needs so require. They must **not** excuse themselves by saying that their extra funds are “*dedicated to God.*”

This is part of our obedience to the fifth commandment.

John 19:25-27 [NIV] “*Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said to his mother, ‘Dear woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.*”

Even in His dying moments, while suffering one of the most agonising deaths ever devised by human beings, Jesus honoured and loved His mother to the very end.

Here Jesus Christ made final provision for His mother to be taken care of after His death by His disciple John.

At a time when the thoughts of other men would have been on self, Jesus Christ still remembered the fifth commandment and extended love and honour to the woman who bore Him. The mother who had nourished Him from infancy, who had taught Him from the scriptures, and who now stood in this awful place, unashamed, weeping at His death.

Remember the perfect example that Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour gave us when He was here on earth.