

“Honor Your Parents”

Exodus 20:12

How should I honor my parents? The word “honor” means “heavy” or “weighty.” Therefore to “honor” is to give due weight to their position. Children do this by obeying their parents (Eph. 6:1) and adults honor their parents by loving them, respecting them, and helping them in their need (I Tim. 5:3).

What does this command teach me about other authorities? “For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Ro. 13:1). This commandment teaches us the principle of submission to all authority, including our government, employer, school, and church.

What is the promised reward of this command? Israel was promised safety and blessing in the land of promise, Canaan. The Apostle Paul repeats this command and promise in Ephesians 6:1-3. He could not have possibly meant living long in Canaan. Rather, this promise is fulfilled for us when we experience the safety and blessing of living a wise life and is ultimately fulfilled for us when we live eternally in the promised land of heaven.

How did Jesus obey this command? Jesus loved and honored His parents, consider His provision for His mother’s well-being while dying on the cross (John 19:26-27). However, we see an even greater loyalty to the higher family of His heavenly Father (Luke 2:41-52 & Mark 3:31-35). Jesus obeyed the fifth commandment by honoring His earthly parents and in an even greater way by supremely honoring His Father in Heaven. He calls us to do the same (Luke 14:26).

***Questions for Discussion:**

- 1.** How does God want you to better honor your parents?
- 2.** Do you struggle to respect any other area of authority? Why is it important to respect all authorities?
- 3.** Is your highest allegiance to your Heavenly Father and His family or to something else?

(Reading Assignment: Exodus 20:13 & Matthew 5:21-26)