

HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER

Introduction:

1. Throughout this study, it must be emphasized that man today is not under the Law of Moses – including the Ten Commandments.
2. However, the things that “were written aforetime were written for our learning” (Rom. 15:4).
3. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME
4. THOU SHALT NOT MAKE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE
5. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN
6. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY

Overview:

1. The first 4 commandments deal with man’s relationship with God.
2. Beginning with the 5th commandment, man’s relationship with his neighbor is considered.
 - a. Interestingly, Romans 13:9 may indicate that this commandment was grouped with the first four.
 - b. One’s respect for parents reflects directly upon his reverence for God.
3. Also, it must be remembered that these commandments formed a foundation upon which the nation of Israel would be built – as a theocracy.

I. The Importance of the Language

- A. The Hebrew word for ‘father’ is *ab*, signifying the “head or founder of a family or household.”
- B. The Hebrew word for ‘mother’ is *em*, and, in its most basic use, refers to the one who gives birth to another.
- C. The Hebrew word for ‘honor’ means, “To be heavy or weighty; thus, to be rich or gain honor” (cf. 14:17-18).
 1. To honor one’s parents is to feel the weight of respect for them (cf. Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1-3).
 2. To honor one’s parents is to carry the weight of caring for them (cf. Mark 7:10-13; 1 Tim. 5:1-4, 8, 16).
 3. To honor one’s parents is to bestow upon them the obedience, respect, and love that they deserve.
- D. Though one may “leave father and mother” (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5), he must still “honor father and mother.”

II. The Importance of the Home

- A. This commandment is transitional because the position bestowed upon parents is high and closely related to one’s duties toward God (cf. Lev. 19:3).
- B. The example set by parents influences a child’s understanding of God.
- C. The teaching given by parents affects a child’s understanding of God (Eph. 6:4; cf. Gen. 18:19; Exo. 12:26-27; Deut. 6:7; etc.).
- D. Thus, a lack of respect for one’s parents demonstrates a lack of respect for God (cf. 21:15, 17; Lev. 20:9; Prov. 20:20; 30:17).

III. The Importance of the Promise

- A. This is called the “first commandment with promise” (Eph. 6:2).
- B. The principle shows that obedience to parents brings blessings.
 - 1. Obedience to God
 - 2. A well-ordered life
 - 3. Prosperity as individuals and a nation
- C. It did not mean that one who obeyed his parents would never see any harm or misfortune (cf. Deut. 6:2; etc.).
- D. This general rule is still valid today!