

Word #5: Honor

8/1/2021

Exodus Series

Message

Exodus 20:12 (CSB)

¹²Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Ephesians 6:1–4 (CSB)

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. ²**Honor your father and mother**, which is the first commandment with a promise, ³**so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land.** ⁴Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

1. A Tragedy in the Making.

A. When God created man and woman and put them together, He created a wonderful thing.

1. He blessed the union and declared it to be good.
2. Then He declares, "What God has joined together, let no man separate.

B. Immediately, the Enemy, attacks this bond.

1. Adam and Eve sin, and blame and attack each other.
2. Then Cain kills Abel, brother against brother.
3. **The family has always been a primary objective of the enemy in "frustrating" the plans of God.**

C. We would be naïve to assume that the Devil has changed tactics.

1. Pharaoh tried to destroy the Israelite families by ordering the death of firstborn males.

2. God tries to prevent the destruction of societies by declaring the necessity to "honor your father and your mother."

3. God's declaration to "honor our parents" is so important that it serves as the lynch-pin commandment.

a. A people who will allow dishonoring of parents will have no problem justifying murder. (#6)

b. A people who will dishonor parents will justify adultery, and theft, and lying, and greed.

1. People who do not honor God will not honor their parents.

2. People who do not honor their parents will not honor others either.

c. The order of God's commandments has an order about them, with each one building upon the other.

D. I'm afraid that we are watching a tragedy unfold.

1. It is possible that, on a global scale, we are watching the breakdown of polite society.

a. The Apostle Paul describes this in Romans 1, where God gives people over to their depravity.

b. Part of human depravity is the destruction of what God intended for good.

c. And God intended for the family, husband and wife, to raise a family and honor God in this way.

d. Satan has waged war against the family since the beginning.

2. How did we get here in America?

a. Long before social media, school shootings, pandemics, or election controversies, the seeds of destruction were being sown.

b. Annie Gottlieb, a writer and not a Christian, points to the 1960s as a turning point in America.

Annie Gottlieb is one of many participants who identify “the Sixties” as “the generation that destroyed the American family.” She writes, “We might not have been able to tear down the state, but the family was closer. We could get our hands on it. And ... we believed that the family was the foundation of the state, as well as the collective state of mind... We truly believed that the family had to be torn apart to free love, which alone could heal the damage done when the atom was split to release energy. And the first step was to tear ourselves free from our parents.”¹

3. My generation was the generation of school shootings.

a. The upcoming generations are the generations of gender-fluidity.

b. What we are facing today started in the Garden of Eden, with humanity questioning the rightness of God’s Word.

c. This was exacerbated in the 1960’s in America and continues to gain downward momentum.

2. How did we get here?

A. The perspective of Albert Mohler, president of a large Baptist Seminary, is helpful.

1. “We are far too comfortable with this commandment because we think it is addressed to children. But this is not children’s church in the middle of the Ten Commandments. It is not as if we have nine grown-up, adult commandments--- and then all of a sudden a commandment that is addressed to the children. God

¹ Philip Graham Ryken and R. Kent Hughes, [*Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005), 601.

was not looking for a way to involve the children in this tenfold moral code." (Mohler, 96)

2. *In other words, when adults declare that this commandment is for the children, and not for them, we miss the point of the Commandment.*

3. **When adults demand obedience from children while walking in their own rebellion, we perpetuate the problem.**

B. The reverse is also true:

1. St. Augustine asked, "If anyone fails to honor his parents, is there anyone he will spare?"

2. Sow dishonor, and you will reap dishonor.

3. Dishonor gives birth to rebellion.

4. Rebellion opens the door to chaos.

5. And God is not a God of chaos.

C. Therefore, God declared "Honor your father and mother..."

1. This declaration is confirmed by Jesus in His teachings in Matthew 15 and in the teachings of Paul in Ephesians 6.

2. All of God's people are called to a life of honoring one another.

3. The word "honor" comes from the same root as "glory".

A. The literal sense of the word is "heavy".

1. "To honor means to esteem highly or consider someone or something as worthy of respect, reverence, and awe." (Mounce).

2. What God is asking of the children is to consider their fathers and mothers with respect, reverence, and awe.

B. This looks different through different life-stages.

1. When you are young and at home, it means not backtalking, taking out the trash, and those kind of things.

2. When we are adults, it means helping our parents when possible.
3. When our parents begin to struggle, it means honoring them by helping and supporting.
4. When our parents pass, it means respecting their memory.
5. The child is never released from the calling to honor father and mother.
6. We never outgrow the command to honor our father and mother.

C. When we honor our parents (physical and spiritual) we honor what God had ordained and blessed.

1. It was God's idea for a man and woman to be joined together and have a family.
2. It was God's idea that honor, glory, and respect would be part of the family and social fabric.
3. When I honor my parents, even when it is hard, I am honoring what God has created.

4. But my parents were terrible! What should I do?

A. Many of us had very different experiences at home.

1. Maybe one of your parents did not do a good job.
2. Maybe one of your parents left when you were young or was abusive.
3. For that, I'm sorry.
 - a. That wasn't God's intention.
 - b. Unfortunately, people have a free-will and make choices that do not honor God, their family, or themselves.

B. If you find yourself with inner turmoil just thinking about this, perhaps what is necessary is for you to forgive.

1. Forgiveness does not deny what has taken place.
2. Forgiveness does not excuse what they have done.
3. Forgiveness releases you from the anger and hate that their actions have attached to you.

- a. You cannot honor someone you can't forgive.
- b. Even if your parent has passed away, forgiveness is still necessary for you to heal and move on.

C. How can I honor a parent that was not honorable?

1. Forgive, for that is what God calls us to.
2. Reconcile, if possible.
3. If you can't say anything nice, then don't. (particularly influences kids of divorced parents, or kids grandparents).

D. Honoring our parents in a sinful world is not always easy.

1. Our parents weren't perfect.
2. You aren't perfect.
3. Only Jesus is perfect.
 - a. When we humans do humanly things, we are to be reminded that we have a heavenly Father that is perfect, who loves us, and will never fail.
 - b. And as I show honor to my parents, I am honoring the heavenly Father that sent His son to die for my sin.

5. What does this say about God?

A. God was giving Israel this land.

1. God wanted this land to be a land of blessing, of promise, of good, and order.
2. In a sense, God is saying "This is my land and in it you will honor your family, or your days there will be cut short."

3. This is the first commandment with a promise.
 - a. This promise was for the nation, not just individuals.
 - b. If you, as a people, will honor your parents, then you will be blessed in my land.

B. The inverse is also true.

1. If you dishonor your parents, your time there will be shortened.
2. The stability of the family and home was so important to God that later in Leviticus 20:9 and Deuteronomy 21:18,19,21), God told Israel to put to death anyone who curses their father and mother.
3. God went to great lengths to demonstrate to Israel the importance of the family structure and the home.

6. What does this Commandment say for us?

A. #1. Honor begins at home.

1. And the call to honor our parents doesn't stop when we leave the house.
2. The surest way to make sure your kids neglect you when you are in need is by them watching you neglect your parents when they were in need.

B. #2. This commandment is not only for children.

1. Remember, that Ephesians 6 told children to honor and obey parents.
2. But the fathers were not to provoke their children to anger.

⁴Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

3. Parents can't lead their kids to Jesus if they don't see Jesus in you!

a. Little eyes and little ears are watching and listening not only to what you say but also to what you do.

b. Also, fathers, do not pass of your responsibility of teaching to YouTube.

c. Do life with your children.

d. You have a responsibility to train and instruct your kids in the ways of Jesus.

1. The ministries of this church exist to come alongside what you are already doing at home.

2. We are not a replacement; we are a supplement.

C. #3. Disobedience to parents is a sign of the last days.

2 Timothy 3:1–3 (CSB)

3 But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good,

Romans 1:28–32 (CSB)

²⁸And because they did not think it worthwhile to acknowledge God, God delivered them over to a corrupt mind so that they do what is not right. ²⁹They are filled with all unrighteousness, evil, greed, and wickedness. They are full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹senseless, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful. ³²Although they know God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

1. We should shudder in recognizing that dishonoring parents is one of the many sins of the last days.

2. That this sin, along with many others, is a sign that God is handing humanity over to her sinful desires and passions.

a. A few years ago, I was on Fort Leanord with a friend who was a Captain (and now a Major).

b. He was in full uniform when coming through the main gate.

1. The young private checking id's check his id and returned it without a salute or acknowledgment of rank.

2. My friend, a Captain, then dressed down the private in such a way that a salute was sharply returned.

c. As we pulled away, I commented that that Private probably was thinking the Captain was a jerk.

1. The Captains response:

2. What you permit now becomes the standard for tomorrow.

3. Could it be that what we permitted generations ago has now become the standard?

a. God knew that when we permit and excuse sin, that sin becomes the standard.

b. The 5th commandment reminds us to be careful not to allow sin to find root in our home and in our most important relationships.

Close: What do we do with this message:

A. If you are guilty of dishonoring people around you, asking for forgiveness and change is the first place to start.

B. If you have struggled honoring your parents, in life or in memory, asking God for forgiveness and healing might be your next step.

C. Lastly, all of us should take time to repent of what we have allowed and permitted in our lives, our homes, and our country and ask God to change our trajectory.