



Sunday, May 8, 2022

“Honor Your Father and Mother”

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 23:22-25 ²² Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. ²³ Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. ²⁴ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. ²⁵ Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

Introduction: Parents who reveal the love of the Lord to the world

Today is Mother's Day. Let us greet each other with, "Happy Mother's Day!".

All people on this world are loved by our Heavenly Father. **That's why John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

Parents are the people who show the love of the Lord to this world. The Lord has given us parents, and through them we show the Lord's love to our children.

Through today's message, I would like to tell you what kind of being the Lord sent as parents to His children, and how we should treat them.

Body: What the Bible says about honoring our parents and how we should honor them

The Bible says that parents should be respected by their children. So, the fifth commandment of the Ten Commandments, **Exodus 20:12, says, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."** The meaning of the word '**Honor**' in this verse is "**to cherish parents and to place high value on them above all things in the world**".

To us, our parents are agents of the Lord's work for us. And we received the life that the Lord has given to all people through our parents. Also, the Lord has commanded the parents of the people of Israel and us to teach and discipline our children in the word of the Lord. That is why children live by hearing the word of the Lord through their parents and following through. After all, the children of the world learn and live a life of fear in the Lord by honoring their parents.

However, we are sometimes ashamed our parents did not learn much or ashamed of their appearance or occupation. These feelings and attitudes are far from honoring our parents.

Please don't forget. Parents are the root of our existence. If we know even the slightest bit of parental grace, we should be able to honor our parents. So, how does the Bible teach us to honor our parents?

1. Respect for one's parents is a holy thing that God's people must observe.

When the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel, **Leviticus 19:2 says: “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.’”**



And then through the following verses, it lists the things we must do to be found holy before God. Keeping the Sabbath, not making idols, and offering sacrifices to the Lord are holy things that God's people must do. However, the first of these holy things is to honor our parents.

That's why **Leviticus 19:3** says, "**Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.**" As this verse shows, honoring our parents is the basis for our living as the set apart, holy people of God. Honoring one's parents is a holy thing that takes precedence over any other holy act.

So, God has commanded strict handling of children who do not honor their parents. In Mark 7:10, He commanded those children who blaspheme their parents, those who hit or curse their parents, must be put to death. But the Lord wanted children to be blessed, not cursed because of their parents, so he gave the commandment to honor one's parents.

Ephesians 6:2-3 says: "**Honor 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.**"

Please don't forget. The Lord says that the abundance and prosperity of the world lies in honoring our parents. The Lord blesses children who honor their parents. So, honoring one's parents is an aspect of the Christian's holy life, set apart from the world. And then, how does the Bible teach us to honor our parents?

2. We can honor our parents by obeying them.

If you look at today's text, it says, "**Listen to your father who begot you.**" Children must obey their parents. But what about the reality we face? Young children will listen to their parents if they are young and incapable. But as the years pass, the parents get older and the children grow up, and things change. Sometimes, as children grow up, they no longer want to obey their parents but do their own thing.

And on the contrary, it puts the parents in a situation where they must listen to their children. As parents get older, they are ignored by their children, and sometimes they are not perceived as important to their children.

But the Bible warns. **Deuteronomy 27:16** says: "**Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother.**" **Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"**

Parents should be respected by their children, whether parents are young or old, and whether parents are capable or not.

The Bible says that it is a glorious thing for parents to grow old. **Proverbs 16:31** says: "**Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.**" The Lord has granted long life to those who live righteously, so gray hair is like a crown the Lord gives to those who have lived righteously. Therefore, we must be able to heed the words of our elderly parents. So, finally, how does the Bible teach us to honor our parents?

3. Children should honor their parents by making them happy.

Today's text, **Proverbs 23:25** say: "**May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice**". Children who believe in the Lord have a common task. How can we make our parents happy without worrying them? To please parents is to honor them. But with what can we please our parents?

First, visit our parents often. Second, listen to our elderly parents. A person can live only by speaking, but they cannot live without someone to listen to. **The third is to acknowledge the value of the existence of parents.** When we are young and capable, we can persevere when others don't appreciate us. But



as we get older and our abilities fade, we lose the value of our existence. So, we need to be able to appreciate the existence of elderly parents. **Lastly, we need to guide our parents so that they can have hope for the eternal kingdom through faith in Jesus.** I hope that we will all be able to put these things into practice.

Conclusion: Experience a blessed life by honoring your parents

Now let's summarize today's sermon. **2 Timothy 3:2** says: **“People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy.”** This verse is a warning of things that will happen in the last days. One of them is disobedience to parents. As children, we must not take our parents lightly, nor listen to their words in vain. Also, as children we should not make our parents sad. Furthermore, we must heed our parents and become their joy in life.

Please don't forget. Our parents are not people who live forever on this earth. Therefore, while they are still alive, we must live with the utmost respect for them. On Mother's Day, I hope that we will all be able to enjoy the blessings the Lord has given us by honoring our parents and making them happy.

