

Honor  
Honor Your Father and Mother  
Clay Weed

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture:

**Exodus 20:12 (NLT)**

*12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

**Ephesians 6:1–3 (NLT)**

*1 Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 2 "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: 3 If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."*

**John 13:12–17 (NLT)**

*12 After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? 13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. 16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. 17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.*

**1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NLT)**

*4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Describe a time when you had to work together with your family to accomplish a task or overcome a challenge. What was the task, and how did you feel about working together?

Start **sharing**. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- **Read Exodus 20:12.** Discuss what the term "honor" means in the context of your relationship with your parents. How should this commandment influence your daily interactions with them?
- **Ephesians 6:1-3** reiterates the command to honor our parents and its promise. How does this New Testament perspective impact your understanding of the commandment's relevance today?
- Clay explained of the Greek word for "obey" and the Hebrew word for "honor." How do these definitions help you distinguish between the acts of obedience and honor in your relationships, especially with parents?
- The sermon mentioned that "how we honor God reflects how we honor our parents." Discuss practical ways you can show honor to your parents, even in situations where you might disagree with them.
- Clay referenced **John 13:12-17** to discuss how Jesus modeled the concept of serving and honoring others. How can we apply this example in our family life and beyond?
- Reflecting on **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**, how can you practice true love and honor towards your parents, even when it's challenging?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Identify one area where you feel called to grow in honoring your parents or authority figures. Share with the group and discuss how you plan to address this area.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Father, we praise you for your faithfulness, and for sending us Jesus. We ask for your help in honoring our parents as you've commanded us. Please encourage and guide us as we seek to model You as we raise up the next generation, in grace, truth, and love.

**Question: "What does it mean to honor my father and mother?"**

**Answer:** Honoring your father and mother is being respectful in word and action and having an inward attitude of esteem for their position. The Greek word for honor means "to revere, prize, and value." Honor is giving respect not only for merit but also for rank. For example, some Americans may disagree with the President's decisions, but they should still respect his position as leader of their country. Similarly, children of all ages should honor their parents, regardless of whether or not their parents "deserve" honor.

God exhorts us to honor father and mother. He values honoring parents enough to include it in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12) and again in the New Testament: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3). Honoring parents is the only command in Scripture that promises long life as a reward. Those who honor their parents are blessed (Jeremiah 35:18-19). In contrast, those with a "depraved mind" and those who exhibit ungodliness in the last days are characterized by disobedience to parents (Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2).

Solomon, the wisest man, urged children to respect their parents (Proverbs 1:8; 13:1; 30:17). Although we may no longer be directly under their authority, we cannot outgrow God's command to honor our parents. Even Jesus, God the Son, submitted Himself to both His earthly parents (Luke 2:51) and His heavenly Father (Matthew 26:39). Following Christ's example, we should treat our parents the way we would reverentially approach our heavenly Father (Hebrews 12:9; Malachi 1:6).

Obviously, we are commanded to honor our parents, but how? Honor them with both actions and attitudes (Mark 7:6). Honor their unspoken as well as spoken wishes. "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke" (Proverbs 13:1). In Matthew 15:3-9, Jesus reminded the Pharisees of the command of God to honor their father and mother. They were obeying the letter of the law, but they had added their own traditions that essentially overruled it. While they honored their parents in word, their actions proved their real motive. Honor is more than lip service. The word "honor" in this passage is a verb and, as such, demands a right action.

We should seek to honor our parents in much the same way that we strive to bring glory to God "in our thoughts, words, and actions. For a young child, obeying parents goes hand in hand with honoring them. That includes listening, heeding, and submitting to their authority. After children mature, the obedience that they learned as children will serve them well in honoring other authorities such as government, police, and employers.

While we are required to honor parents, that doesn't include imitating ungodly ones (Ezekiel 20:18-19). If a parent ever instructs a child to do something that clearly contradicts God's commands, that child must obey God rather than his/her parents (Acts 5:29).

Honor begets honor. God will not honor those who will not obey His command to honor their parents. If we desire to please God and be blessed, we should honor our parents. Honoring is not easy, is not always fun, and certainly is not possible in our own strength. But honor is a certain path to our purpose in life "glorifying God. "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).