

The TENDER Commandments
Exodus 20:12 Fifth Commandment

INTRODUCTION:

The Old Grandfather and His Grandson

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Once upon a time there was a very, very old man. His eyes had grown dim, his ears deaf, and his knees shook. When he sat at the table, he could scarcely hold a spoon. He spilled soup on the tablecloth, and, beside that, some of his soup would run back out of his mouth.

His son and his son's wife were disgusted with this, so finally they made the old grandfather sit in the corner behind the stove, where they gave him his food in an earthenware bowl, and not enough at that. He sat there looking sadly at the table, and his eyes grew moist. One day his shaking hands could not hold the bowl, and it fell to the ground and broke. The young woman scolded, but he said not a word. He only sobbed. Then for a few hellers they bought him a wooden bowl and made him eat from it.

Once when they were all sitting there, the little grandson of four years pushed some pieces of wood together on the floor.

"What are you making?" asked his father.

"Oh, I'm making a little trough for you and mother to eat from when I'm big."

The man and the woman looked at one another and then began to cry. They immediately brought the old grandfather to the table, and always let him eat there from then on. And if he spilled a little, they did not say a thing.

"Be nice to your kids; they'll decide which nursing home you go to."

As we continue, my prayer is that in this series, we'll all understand that

-The Ten Commandments ARE NOT ABOUT WHAT God WANTS FROM US, BUT WHAT HE WANTS FOR US.

-Remember that THE Ten Commandments ARE SOMEONE WE MEET BEFORE THEY ARE SOMETHING WE OBEY.

The context of the Ten Commandments is to be understood as a Covenant commitment ceremony,

Stipulations Relating To Loving

LOVE FOR God IS SINGULAR – EXCLUSIVE

Love for God is SPIRITUAL

Love for God must be Sincere

Love for God must be Safe Guarded

Today we move to the second Table of the Law – the commands that govern our horizontal relationships. These commands give us the big picture of what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.

The commandments are not given as a spiritual body building routine so that we can look like Charles Atlas; they are given to show our need for a savior.

Even if there were no God, I think people would agree that commandments 5-10 are good for the foundation of society. On a purely pragmatic level things go better in society, and in our lives, when

we live according to the last 6 commandments. Just look at the havoc that comes into our lives when we live in opposition to these commands.

Commandments 1-3 set the big picture for us – the context for love for your neighbor. We love our neighbor as a way of showing our love for God.

1 John 5:2-3 ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

At the root of all Christian obedience are holy affections for God – love and delight in HIM. The battle to delight in God is the main battle of the universe.

To paraphrase John Piper, **delighting in God is essential to glorifying God**, and glorifying God is why **the universe** was created.

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."

Commands 5-10 are ways of Road Testing #1 within the context of human relationships. Having “no other God before me” will have an impact in our horizontal relationships. The way to know if we love God is to see how we treat others.

The 5th Comm is the head of the second Table of the Law in the way that #1 is to the First Table. You can't break #6-10 without breaking #5. If following #5 means no more than obeying #6-10, then you've gone a long way toward living a blessed life, one that honors your parents. They are dishonored by disobedient living.

EX: “I'm sure your mother, OR GRANDMAMA, taught you better than that.” (unless you were raised by Bonnie Parker or Thelma and Louise.

Disrespect for parents was a major – CAPITAL sin in the OT. – Ex:21:17, Lev 20:9 – one who cursed his parents could be executed.

In the NT Jesus got on the Pharisees for claiming to keep this commandment while breaking it by leaving their parents destitute.

Paul connects disobedience to parents with godlessness (Rom 1:30) and apostasy of the last days (2 Tim 3:2). **THIS IS IMPORTANT**, so kids listen up. God CARES ABOUT FAMILIES – Whether you are single or married, you have parents. Even if they are deceased, the relationship you had with them impacts your life today.

All relationship grow out of and reflect the relationship you have with your parents.

Just as the 4th commandment gives a rhythm and structure to our week, the 5th Comm gives a structure to ALL of our relationships.

Get a glimpse of your future by watching how your spouse or potential spouse relates to his/ her parents.

How many of you want a relationship with your kids that is the same as the relationship you have with your parents? If not, what will you do to change the cycle? How will you **INTENTIONALLY** make things different?

The 5th Commandment frames your Past, Present and Future

Past – you enter life with a history and some baggage; it may be a blessing or it may be a hindrance, but either way you're not simply a blank slate. Your life as a child is impacted and

shaped by your parents' relationship with your grandparents. Things have happened in your family history that impact your life for good or for evil.

This is true for individuals, families, churches, communities, even nations.

EX: Why do kids and their grandparents get along so well??? They have a common enemy (funny? Sad? Often, too true)

Present – How you deal with that baggage and how you relate to your parents will shape your life now. You can't change the past but you can determine how you will handle it right now.

Your parents have made mistakes; all parents make mistakes; you'll make mistakes as a parent, even as you do as a child right now. You can't blame their mistakes for your failure to honor them right now. That is to forget the gospel. Did God love you and choose you because of your righteous record? NO.

Future – How you deal with your parents will shape your future as you grow up and get married and have kids. The example you set for your kids will shape how they treat you as you get older.

We dishonor God when we dishonor our parents- Eph 3- The family is God's idea and He is the perfect Father.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Honor = respect (kavod- glory, i.e. weight it is due; show humility toward. The word glory comes from the word Honor and there is a sense of "heavy or weighty" in the OT; in the NT a sense of valuing and treasuring something of a great price.

Honor = submit – not blind submission, but obedience, yes. To those to whom it is due. Eph 6 Honor involves 1) prizing them highly 2) caring, showing affection for them 3) showing respect, fear or revering them – Lev 19:3

Where do you learn this honor? From parents. Are you teaching them to respect and submit and support. Kids learn it by watching their parents and how they treat others.

LOVE YOUR PARENTS- Say It With Words And With **T-I-M-E**

You really can't say you love someone without being willing to give up something for him/her. Time and energy are two of our most precious commodities.

"I can't love my folks as parents"

Then love them as neighbors

"I can't do that; they are more like enemies

Then love your enemies

No parent is perfectly worthy of your love, but then God loved us when we were still his enemies We can only love that way when our hearts are impacted by god's love for us. When we internalize His love for us, then we can love those who are difficult to love in our own lives.

"I don't love them as I should, but at least I don't HATE them; I'm just sort of indifferent."

That is the OPPOSITE OF LOVE. Indifference is not honoring

FORGIVE YOUR PARENTS – until you forgive you are a slave to them and to your anger.

Most teen rebellion is a result of unresolved anger; the teen isn't rejecting the rules, but the relationship.

Forgiveness means that you must eat the debt. For God to forgive us, who paid the debt? If there is no forgiveness then you are locked up in the past and the work of Christ and the values and motivations of the kingdom of God will be unfruitful in your life.

LOSE THE ATTITUDE – don't be adversarial. Don't impute negative motives. "If I had done this then you would have just done....." **GIVE YOUR PARENTS THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.** When they address issues of friends, values, music, movies, clothes, appropriate behavior, etc., assume that they have more insight than you.

BE THANKFUL – make a conscious decision to accept your parents by faith, with thanksgiving, by faith.

PRO-ACTIVELY seek the input of your parents – adopt a posture of humility and of a learner. Honoring is not something that is passive. It's not simply being a silent "yes man" while sulking on the inside.

SEE THROUGH your parents to God who is the ultimate authority. Bad parents point us to the greater grace that is with the heavenly Father.

ASK THE PRIOR QUESTION: "Will this behavior, this attitude, this activity honor God? If you can't figure that out, then ask, "Will it honor my parents? " If the answer is no, then it probably won't honor God.

APPLICATION POINTS:

HONORING OUR PARENTS IS SOMEONE WE MEET BEFORE IT IS SOMETHING WE DO.

All the promises of God are "yes" in Jesus Christ. That includes this command with a promise. We can know this blessing because Jesus honored the Father when we couldn't or wouldn't. Christ always referred to The Father in prayer, except one time – on the cross. He lost the place and privilege of sonship so that we might gain it. Jesus knows what it is like to feel abandoned by the Father, and He chose to do it – for us.

Kids at Home

This is easy – obey your parents – willingly, respectfully. Remember that they have your best interest at heart and they have the wisdom of life on their side, so get on their team. Unless they ask you to do something that is illegal or immoral, then your obedience to the First Commandment fuels obedience to the 5th.

Speak to them with respect; they are not your friends at school

HONORING YOUR PARENTS WHEN YOU ARE AWAY FROM THEM.....at school, Sunday School, Wed night, sports, music, ANY extra-curricular activity. **HOW YOU BEHAVE IN THOSE** situations will either **HONOR OR DISHONOR** your parents. You are to respect your teachers in church, at school, or coaches or parents at the home of a friend, or else you are not honoring your parents. **THIS IS A God ISSUE. IT IS A CENTRAL God ISSUE FOR CHILDREN.** And God uses language of reward in this command. This is good for you, for families, for society. Underneath the reward is The reverse- if you don't honor your parents, it won't go well with you. To honor them is to behave in a way they've taught you to behave.

Adult Children –

The Command requires respect and honesty. As an adult, you honor your parents by relating to them as adults. Be responsible for your own life and decisions. Get input from your parents, but assume responsibility for your life. **SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE**

“BUT MY PARENTS DON’T DESERVE HONOR. You don’t know what they’re like.”

No one deserves the kind of honor that God calls us to give. We’re all fallen creatures and even our best deeds are as filthy rags, but God deserves honor. In honoring our parents, we honor God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, (Eph 3:14-15).

I believe that we are to give to our parents the same kind of honor that Christ the Son gave to the Father. He is the perfect model of what it means to honor the Father.
So go do that..... Doesn’t that just crush you? It should.

Jesus is more than a model; he is a savior!

The gospel reminds us that we don’t deserve salvation- God does know what we are like, but he sent Christ to obey and suffer in our place.

ABC’S of coming to faith

Fifth COMMANDMENT AND ROOTS, BRANCHES, FRUIT

The 10c show us the Nature of God, so we can sink our ROOTS INTO HIM

God is a gracious Father, so as those in His image we should honor our parents, in His image.

They show how we are to RELATE TO THE OTHER BRANCHES

We can’t sincerely Honor God as Father while we dishonor our parents.

They show what the fruit of Loving God and Others looks like.

Honoring our parents is a fruit of a life lived in the Love of God as Father.

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