

New Mount Zion M.B. Church



New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
140 West Maple Street
Jackson, MS 39203
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Bible Class (April 27, 2020)**

***“Understanding The Ten Commandments”
#5th Commandment***

What is the fifth commandment?

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

This 5th commandment is concerned with the home and family. The family structure lays the foundation for all other authority and obedience in life. If one does not learn to respect their mother and father, they won't learn to respect anyone or anything else. The fifth commandment is the first one to deal with one's relationship to their fellow man.

If you neither honor your father and your mother nor recognized them as your parents, you have broken this law.

When God issued this commandment to Moses on Mount Sinai, He demonstrated His sovereign plan for real relationships. “And just as we are to honor the One who created us, so we are to honor those who were chosen to carry out God’s plan for our creation- our fathers and mothers!” In a world riddled with broken marriages and pieced together families, it is more important than ever to stop pointing fingers and start embracing God’s command to honor each other. Many of us are fathers and mothers, either by blood or adoption. If we are caring for someone, or they us, we are to honor them.

God said, above all else, to love Him and each other, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We all know what it's like to be a child. Many of us know what it's like to be a parent or caregiver. I believe this commandment was so important to God because we are so important to Him. Family is important to God. We are His family. When we honor our families, it's a direct reflection of how He loves us. Often dysfunctional and broken, He loves us.

It's impossible for any of us to be exempt from this command. Even those of us who have not known our maternal mothers and fathers have caregivers who have adopted us into their lives. We honor them. We all look to those who have gone before us and done the best they knew to do. Believers or not, our obedience to honor our parents is part of God's eternal plan.

What is meant by the word honor?

It comes from a root word that literally means to carry heaviness. To weight heavy, severe, or important. You have heard the statement that he carries a lot of weight. But it also means to reverence and or to respect. What does it mean to honor one's parents? Obviously, their children must not kill them (Ex.21:15) must not curse them (21:17). Steal from them (proverbs 28:24) or even insult them...read Deuteronomy (21:18-21)

You can not honor without submitting to authority. Read Leviticus 19:3 and Leviticus 24: 15. It talks about how parents ought to be respected and it also stresses the fact that GOD is honored or dishonored by man's relationship with their parents. What is easier to obey or to honor? It is easier to obey because one can obey and still hate but you can not honor and hate at the same time.

*How does one honor their parents when they do not have
GODLY parents?*

You must still respect them for being your parents. It makes no difference whether the parent is worthy or unworthy of this honor GOD has providentially given the child his/her parent. You respect their position and not necessarily their pattern. The motivation for a child to honor their parent is simply a long and prosperous life. The one who honors his/her parents and thank him for the goodness they have done for them has their reward. The LORD will provide goodness for him for the length of his days.

Are we to expect that every obedient child will live a long life? Or should we assume that every death that seems premature was because he/she dishonored their parents? This is a general rule and not an absolute rule.

What was the punishment for dishonoring a parent?

Since relationships between children and parents were legal prescriptions, violations resulted in punitive measures. If a person struck, cursed, or flagrantly disobeyed a parent, punishment could include mutilation, disinheritance, or even death.

We Must Appreciate them.

You honor your father and mother when you are thankful for all they have done for you. You can show your appreciation by valuing their guidance. (Proverbs 7:1, 2; 23:26) The Bible encourages you to view your parents as your “glory,” that is, to be proud of them.—Proverbs 17:6.

We Must Accept their authority.

Especially while you are young, you honor your father and mother when you recognize the authority God has given them. Colossians 3:20 tells young ones: “Be obedient to your parents in everything, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.” Even young Jesus willingly obeyed his parents.—Luke 2:51.

We Must Treat them with respect.

(Leviticus 19:3; Hebrews 12:9) This often involves what you say and how you say it. True, some parents at times act in ways that make it hard to respect them. Even then, children can honor their parents by avoiding disrespectful speech and actions. (Proverbs 30:17) The Bible teaches that speaking abusively of one's father or mother is a serious offense.—Matthew 15:4.

Is it our responsibility to have our parents live with us when they become older regardless of being married or single? JESUS gave his mother to his disciple

Should one's spouse come before his/her sick parent? I know a lot of individuals whose relationships turned sour over what should happen to the sickly parent.

Look at Mark 7: 10-12 & Ephesians 6:2-3

We Must Provide for them.

When your parents get old, they may need practical support. You can honor them by trying your best to make sure that they have what they need. (1 Timothy 5:4, 8) For instance, shortly before he died, Jesus arranged for the care of his mother.—John 19:25-27.

Misconceptions about honoring one's father and mother

Misconception: To honor your father and mother, you must let them control your life or relationships.

Fact: The Bible teaches that the marriage bond takes priority over other family relationships. Genesis 2:24 says: "A man will leave his father and his mother, and he will stick to his wife." (Matthew 19:4, 5) Of course, married couples can benefit from the advice of their parents or in-laws. (Proverbs 23:22) However, a couple may rightly decide to set boundaries limiting the involvement of relatives in their marriage.—Matthew 19:6.

Misconception: Your father and mother have ultimate authority.

Fact: Although God gave parents authority within the family, all human authority has limits—it never overrules God’s authority. For instance, when a high court ordered Jesus’ disciples to disobey God, they replied: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.” (Acts 5:27-29) Likewise, children obey their parents “in union with the Lord,” that is, in all things that do not conflict with God’s laws.—Ephesians 6:1.

Misconception: Honoring your father and mother requires you to follow their religious beliefs.

Fact: The Bible encourages us to test what we are being taught to see whether it is the truth. (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1) An individual who does so may eventually choose a faith that differs from that of his parents. The Bible mentions several faithful servants of God who did not follow the religion of their parents, including Abraham, Ruth, and the apostle Paul.—Joshua 24:2, 14, 15; Ruth 1:15, 16; Galatians 1:14-16, 22-24.