

SET IN STONE

WHAT DO WE DO WITH
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

Part 5: The Challenge of Honor

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The Fifth Commandment

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may
live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

– Exodus 20:12

Parents are in a position to have the most influence
on their children’s spiritual development.

The Bible describes a parent’s role

...I will utter hidden things, things from of old – what we have heard and known,
what our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the
praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he
commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know
them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would
keep his commands. – Psalm 78:2-7

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

– Proverbs 22:6

Many parents have taken themselves out of the game

- Because we’re unaware of the battle that exists
- Because we believe we’re incapable
- Because we think we should leave it to “the experts”

God has designed a window of opportunity

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your
strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you
walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols
on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of
your houses and on your gates. – Deuteronomy 6:5-9

It’s a huge responsibility, but be encouraged!

“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD
God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you... – 1 Chronicles 28:20

The Challenge

1. Suit up – Acknowledge and accept your position
2. Practice – Develop your own spiritual health
3. Coach your team – Take an active role in your child’s spiritual
growth
4. Own your errors– Admit past failures and ask for forgiveness
5. Play the game – Live the way you want to be remembered

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My Decision

I will choose to respect and cherish my parents out of obedience to God and His command.

How can I honor a “dishonorable” parent?

- Remember that respect is a choice
- Find a baseline for honor
- Acknowledge the wounds so that they are not repeated in your children

What do we do with the parent wound?

- **Forgive**

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. – Colossians 3:13

- **Live in God’s promise**

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. – Psalm 147:3

- **Pray**

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that You are the healer of broken places in my life. I come believing your word where You promised to bind up my wounds. I ask you to heal the parent wounds in my heart. Help me to forgive my parents for hurting me and for not meeting my emotional needs. I choose to respect and honor my parents out of my love for You. Amen.

The Big Ten Challenge

I will commit to convene my most important small group (my family) once a week to discuss this week’s commandment. We will discuss the commandment questions with honesty and truthfulness and close our time by praying for each other.

Suggestion for married couples: Take some time to talk about the process of how you are going to handle your aging parents. How will you honor them in the days to come?

Suggestion for small groups: Transparency is the key to this discussion. Tell the truth about your parent relationships without crossing the lines into gossip and sin. This is not a “bash your parents” session!

Suggestion for families: Do your best to move this discussion beyond a simple “obedience” talk. Talk about the ways you want to create a culture of honor in your family.

Small Group Discussion Questions



1. What was your favorite TV family growing up? (Huxtables, Waltons, Ingalls, Bundys, Simpsons, etc.) Why them?
2. How was/is honor shown in your family system?
3. How does honoring your earthly parents affect the way you relate to God your Father?
4. Fast forward in your life to age 80. How do you hope your children will honor you in your older years? What can you do now to ensure that happens?
5. Read Exodus 20:12 again. Why is the promise at the end of the verse significant?
6. How can we pray for each other tonight?