

The Ten: A New Testament Guide to Honoring Parents

Dr. John Carmichael

[Exo 20:1-2, 12 NASB95] 1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

- “The first step was to tear ourselves free from our parents.” Annie Gottlieb. She is identified as one of the thought leaders of the 1960’s who wanted to tear down the American society. She said the family had to be deconstructed. Dr. Ryken, “To destroy a nation, you must destroy the family structure.”
- God knows that to build powerful nation, He needed the family to be established.
- This is true for churches. In order to have strong churches you need strong families in those churches.
- Here, God starts with relationship between parents (father and mothers) and their children.

What do we as NT believers need to understand about the fifth commandment?

Here are seven Biblical truths that NT believers need to understand about the fifth commandment.

I. The Command to Honor Parents Is Still Binding for Believers

- a. Exodus 20:12 – The original command given to Israel as part of God's moral law.
- b. Ephesians 6:1-3 – Paul reiterates this command in the New Testament, affirming its ongoing relevance:
 - i. [Eph 6:1-3 NASB95] 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.
- c. Matthew 15:3-6 – Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for neglecting their parents, affirming that honoring parents is not just an Old Testament principle but a divine expectation.
 - i. [Mat 15:3-6 NASB95] 3 And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 "For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.' 5 "But you say, 'Whoever says to [his] father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given [to God,]" 6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And [by this] you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.
- d. As children, obey and respect parents with a humble attitude.
- e. As teenagers and young adults, listen to their wisdom and counsel.
- f. As adults, maintain a relationship with them through calls, visits, and acts of kindness.
- g. If they are elderly, ensure they are cared for emotionally, physically, and financially.

II. Honoring Parents Reflects Our Relationship with God

- a. [Col 3:20 NASB95] 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.
- b. [Heb 12:9 NASB95] 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?
- c. Pray for your parents regularly, asking God to bless and guide them.
- d. Show gratitude for their sacrifices by verbally expressing appreciation.
- e. Even if they are not believers, demonstrate Christ's love through kindness and patience.
- f. Honor their legacy by living a life that reflects their good values and faith.

The Ten: A New Testament Guide to Honoring Parents

Dr. John Carmichael

III. Dishonoring Parents Is A Grievous Sin

- a. [Lev 20:9 NASB95] 9 'If [there is] anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him.
- b. [Deu 21:18-19, 21 NASB95] 18 "If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, 19 then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. ... 21 "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear [of it] and fear.
- c. It is one of the terrible signs of the last days. [2Ti 3:1-5 NASB95] 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.
- d. Again, this Leviticus and Deuteronomy scripture applies to the civil law that we are not tied to, they demonstrate the importance God placed upon the obedience of children to their parents.
- e. Parents, teach your children to obey.
- f. Rebellion is not to be tolerated.

IV. Honoring Parents Goes Beyond Childhood Obedience

- a. [Pro 23:22 NASB95] 22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.
- b. 1 Timothy 5:4, 8 – Paul instructs believers to care for their aging parents: [1Ti 5:4, 8 NASB95] 4 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. ... 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- c. [Jhn 19:26-27 NASB95] 26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own [household.]
- d. Visit or call your parents regularly to check on them.
- e. Provide financial assistance if needed, ensuring they have what they need.
- f. Show them respect in front of your spouse, children, and others.
- g. Encourage their faith by sharing scripture, praying together, or inviting them to church.

V. The Blessings of Honoring Parents

- a. Exodus 20:12 / Ephesians 6:3 – The promise of a long and blessed life for those who honor their parents.
- b. When you honor your parents, expect God's favor and peace in your life.
- c. Set an example for your children by showing them how to respect elders.
- d. Trust that God rewards those who live according to His principles.

VI. Honor Goes Both Ways

- a. [Eph 6:4 NASB95] 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

The Ten: A New Testament Guide to Honoring Parents

Dr. John Carmichael

- b. [Col 3:20-21 NASB95] 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
- c. Parents (although “fathers” are mentioned, this certainly does not exclude mothers from this admonition) must treat children with love and compassion.
- d. Provoking or exasperating children are part of your authority.
- e. Parents have a role in the relationship the children have with them.
- f. Your role is love them and bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That means to know and trust the Lord.

VII. When Honoring Parents Becomes Difficult

- a. [Mat 10:37 NASB95] 37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.
- b. Honoring parents does not mean obeying them over God.
- c. [Rom 12:18 NASB95] 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- d. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 – The ministry of reconciliation applies to family relationships, urging forgiveness and restoration. [2Co 5:18-19 NASB95] 18 Now all [these] things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
- e. If your parents are difficult or abusive, set healthy boundaries while still showing respect.
- f. If there is past hurt, pray for healing and seek reconciliation when possible.
- g. Love them with Christ’s love, even if they are unbelievers.
- h. Forgive them for past mistakes, just as God has forgiven you.

- **God wants us to have healthy families so we can enjoy long life and good days.**