

The Personal Work of Being Children **10-22-17 AM**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."
Ephesians 6:1-3

Part 1 - To Those In The Home

An important lesson that children must learn is that of obedience. In the case of the home, children need to understand from the very beginning that parents are above them. Children must live life by their rules; they must walk with the intent to please them. Ultimately we need to teach them to be mindful of Christ as a Son (*But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.* -John 14:31).

Parents in this role are constantly fighting the world. The evil of the world seeks to promote rebellion by giving false images. We are all familiar with the TV show that has the foolish dad contrasted with the adult child. These images are wicked. Consider that Eve was deceived by Satan with such imagery. These concepts cause us to find acceptable rebellion. Sadly, all such rebellion leads to destruction (1 Samuel 15:23).

Part 2 - To Those Grown

But the command to honor Father and Mother was originally made to people who were in their forties and fifties. They had seen their parents die in the wilderness, and were preparing to enter the promised land (Deuteronomy 5:16). Therefore, we need to consider that while it is important for children in the home to honor their parents, they may not be the primary audience of the commandment. If adult children are the target of the command, how can they fulfill it? How can they honor parents who may not even be living any longer?

Five Ways For Grown Children to Honor Father and Mother

1. Forgiveness
 - Luke 6:37
 - It was HARD to be your parent!
2. Speak well of them
 - Titus 3:2
 - Speaking evil does not benefit ANYONE
3. Esteem them
 - Hebrews 13:7
 - Parents have self-esteem issues too
4. Encourage them
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - Help them to seek what is good
5. Provide for them
 - Matthew 15:3-9
 - 1 Timothy 5:3-8

Jesus once said that the world will know us by our fruits. This fruit, the fruit of Honor, is quite recognizable by the world. How we related to parents tells the world that we are Christians, and that we are people of honor. We can only think deserve respect BECAUSE we respect.