

The Ten Commandments.



Word 5: Honour your Father and Mother. Exodus 20: 12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land” (Ex. 20:12). God established parents as the authority figures in the family unit. Children often get their first impressions about God from their parents. Parents who walk in the Spirit, honestly desiring to follow the guidelines of the Scriptures, will set better examples for their children. And children who want to please God will respect their parents, regardless of pressure from the world and their peers.

It may be that specific issues arise during discussion, please be aware of these and allow time to pray over these.

Today’s vocabulary has phrases like ‘prenuptial agreements, current partners, maintenance agreement, and access arrangements’.

- 1 What is your understanding or ideal of today’s’ family structure, would it be Mum, Dad and 2.4 children perhaps? Do you think the family structure is failing as it is, if so, why?

This commandment is the only one with a promise attached, and the only one which doesn’t last a lifetime

- 2 At the time of writing, what would have been the social, economic and religious importance of the family?

Read Ephesians 6:1-4. This passage follows immediately on from the passage about husbands and wives we looked at in study 4.

- 3 What is the promise attached to this O.T. commandment? What duty does Paul place on children? What duty does Paul place on parents? How might this change if either are not believers?

Read Proverbs 13:24

- 4 What is the relationship between love and discipleship? What if any limits should there be to discipline? Does this still apply if parents don’t understand or apply Gods’ law to their own lives?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7 & Proverbs 22:6

- 5 What is the vital duty of parents and how does this apply today?

Read Leviticus 19:32. The implication here is that how we treat our parents is linked to how we treat God.

- 6 What is the link between reverence for God and respect for the elderly? How does this widen the commandment to honour parents?

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-8

- 7 According to Paul, how are we to treat the elderly? How has the world changed, is this sort of welfare either needed or feasible in today’s society?
- 8 Some might find it difficult to accept the idea of God as their heavenly Father, due to issues with their earthly father. How might we deal with this? See psalm 68:5,6a for encouragement.
- 9 How can the church uphold the value of family life without appearing to be exclusive to those who are singles?

To honour our parents means to obey them when we are young, to support them when they are older, and respect them all the years. There is only a finite amount of time to fulfil this commandment. There can be much left unsaid or undone. Spend a few moments thinking about your relationship with your own parents, and children if you have any. What in this relationship needs healing or forgiveness? What have you to be thankful for, and have you expressed this recently?