

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

“The Glory of the Lord”

Ex 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (NIV)

*The Hebrew word translated honor is **kabad** (verb) which in the noun form is **kabod** (glory, as in the glory of the Lord, or Ichabod, the glory has departed). The word carries the significance of not only a worthy social standard, but wealth of monetary reward as well.*

Gen 13:2

Abram had become very wealthy (*kabad*) in livestock and in silver and gold. (NIV)

Num 22:37

Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send you an urgent summons? Why didn't you come to me? Am I really not able to reward (*kabad*) you?" (NIV)

Showing honor is no frivolous matter. People in-authority are due honor in respect of the office they hold. You honor a policeman not necessarily because you like him, but because he has the uniform (authority) and the gun (power) to enforce the law. Among those in authority, none is higher than God. He will be honored.

Lev 10:1-3

- 1 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command.
- 2 So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.
- 3 Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: "Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored (*kabad*)."" Aaron remained silent. (NIV)

Nadab and Abihu had moved in presumption. They had been pronounced priests before the Israelites got to Sinai. They had gone up the mountain with Moses, Aaron and the seventy elders to eat a feast before God, whom they saw seated on his throne while they ate. But while Moses was on the mountain, he received a deeper revelation regarding their office. They were ordained and clothed in priestly garments. Their worship and approach to God was circumscribed by the law that Moses brought off the mountain. But they decided that the way they had always done things was good enough. Why should they have to approach God any differently than they had before? So they lit their own censers and offered incense to God. And God smoked them. They had not obeyed the commandment. They had not honored God.

Not honoring God is a death sentence. In this day and age, that true honoring of God begins with believing in the One he sent, Jesus Christ. Every prebeliever has a hunger for God. As Ecclesiastes 3:11 declares, "he has set eternity in the hearts of men." Many of these people may have related to God in what we might call an "unorthodox" manner. Did you know that

unbelievers can speak with God? But what happens when they get born again? Now a new revelation comes. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. The new believer begins to understand that no man comes to the Father except through the Son. What if the new believer disregards this information? What if, as a believer, he or she decides that Jesus as Savior is all right, but they don't need him as Lord. Does this handicap their walk with God? Absolutely.

We need to a live that is honoring to God. How are we to learn such discipline? As in all things spiritual, God has given us a mechanism in the natural to train us in spiritual truth (first the natural, then that which is spiritual – 1 Cor. 15:46; Rom. 1:20).

1 John 4:20-21

20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. (NIV)

We will examine the love of brothers more intently when we look at the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not murder." But what I want to look at here is the principle: first the natural then the spiritual. Jesus said that people would know that we were his disciples because of our love for one another. God says that if you are not walking in love towards your brother, you do not love him. In the same way, one who does not honor and obey his parents does not honor God (if only through the breaking of the fifth commandment).

To put it another way, the best way parents can train children to obey God is to train them to obey the parent's commands. If you want to handicap their walk with God, be permissive and let them do what they want.

1 Sam 2:13-17

13 Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and while the meat was being boiled, the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand.

14 He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.

15 But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw."

16 If the man said to him, "Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would then answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force."

17 This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt. (NIV)

The fat of the offering belonged to God and his altar. The Israelites were forbidden to eat the fat. But Eli's sons made a point of getting the fat meat that they may roast if and eat it.

1 Sam 2:22-26 (NIV)

22 Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

23 So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.

24 No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD's people.

25 If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death.

26 And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

It seems as if Eli was trying to rectify the situation with his sons. But it was too little too late. And he was complicit in their sin.

1 Sam 2:27-36

27 Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Did I not clearly reveal myself to your father's house when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh?

28 I chose your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your father's house all the offerings made with fire by the Israelites.

29 Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?'

30 "Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.

31 The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line

32 and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, in your family line there will never be an old man.

33 Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.

34 "'And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day.

35 I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always.

36 Then everyone left in your family line will come and bow down before him for a piece of silver and a crust of bread and plead, "Appoint me to some priestly office so I can have food to eat.'" (NIV)

Eli became a fat man by eating of the fat that his sons stole from God! Keeping the 5th commandment not only requires us to honor our father and mother, it also means that fathers and mothers train their children to honor them. When we allow disrespect and disobedience in our children, we are honoring them more than God.

1 Sam 4:11-22

- 11 The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.
- 12 That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh, his clothes torn and dust on his head.
- 13 When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the ark of God. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry.
- 14 Eli heard the outcry and asked, "What is the meaning of this uproar?" The man hurried over to Eli,
- 15 who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes were set so that he could not see.
- 16 He told Eli, "I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day." Eli asked, "What happened, my son?"
- 17 The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."
- 18 When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man and heavy. He had led Israel forty years.
- 19 His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains.
- 20 As she was dying, the women attending her said, "Don't despair; you have given birth to a son." But she did not respond or pay any attention.
- 21 She named the boy Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel"-because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband.
- 22 She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured." (NIV)

*I believe that through the continuous use of **kabad** and its derivatives in this narrative, God is telling us something. Eli honored (kabad) his sons more than God. Because he ate of the fat of the offerings, he was a heavy (read very corpulent) (kabad) man. His sons died, he died, and the ark was lost. His grandson was named Ichabod, no glory; for the glory (kabod) had departed from Israel. Where did all this begin? Eli did not train his sons correctly and they did not honor him or God. The result was physical death and a departure of the glory of God! Not honoring parents is a death sentence.*

Ex 21:15

- 15 "Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death.
- 17 "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death. (NIV)

Lev 20:9

"If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head. (NIV)

Deut 21:18-21

- 18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him,

- 19 his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town.
- 20 They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard."
- 21 Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid. (NIV)

Deut 27:16

"Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" (NIV)

We do not want to be a cursed people or generation. We want to be a people set apart, not conformed to this world. We've talked a lot about "signs of the times" in this church. Look at one of the signs of the generation of the end times.

2 Tim 3:1-5

- 1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.
- 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,
- 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-
- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. (NIV)

Mark this, a person who says they love God, go to church every Sunday, pay their tithes, etc... but are not honoring to their parents have a form of godliness but not the power. Those who rebel against parental authority are predisposed to rebel against spiritual authority. And rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

Abraham was a blessed man. The Lord made a covenant with him of which we are the beneficiaries. Why did God choose Abraham? One reason is given in Genesis 18:19

Gen 18:19

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. (KJV)

We can look at this verse in two ways. One, that God knew Abraham's character and thus knew that Abraham would train his children correctly. Two, that God chose Abraham for the specific purpose of training his children to keep the way of the Lord. Either way is good. Whenever we have children, we need to consider ourselves chosen of God to train them in the way of the Lord. And as children, when we honor our parents by obeying them, we please the Lord.

Col 3:21 "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." (NIV)

Eph 6:1-3

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 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (NIV)

The fifth commandment is a transitional one in the Decalogue. The first four deal directly with how we relate to God (love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength). The fifth commandment begins the "love your neighbor as yourself" portion of the Law. But by its nature, it deals more with our relationship to God than our fellow man. Love your neighbor as yourself is another way of expressing the golden rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Although the parent/child relationship should eventually grow into an adult friendship, the honor due a father or mother from the child is never reciprocated in the same sense. In other words, though I respect my children (by not driving them to exasperation), I'll not honor or obey them as I would my parents. Honoring parents is a unique, 'till death do you part, authoritative relationship.

It is also the first commandment with promise. God promises us a good and long life when we are obedient to parents.

Deut 5:16 (NIV)

"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Not only live long in the land, but that it goes well with you in the land as well.

Honoring father and mother in early life takes in the primary character of obedience. As we grow up into our own covenantal households, the honoring relationship deals with the respect we give our parents in private and public. But it also involves a fiduciary (read monetary) responsibility.

Mark 7:9-13

9 And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!

10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

11 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God),

12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother.

13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." (NIV)

Here in Mark, Jesus clearly states that it is not right to abandon our responsibility for our parents even in the name of a good cause like keeping the Temple up. In verse 10 he spoke of the blessing (honor father and mother) and the curse (must be put to death). To not honor, that is to not supply to the financial need of our parents when they are older, our parents is to curse them. Cursing parents is a death sentence. I wonder how many people are suffering from financial trouble because they have not honored their parents.

Once again, God uses the practical means of our relationship with our parents to teach us about relating to him.

Mal 1:6-7

6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'

7 "You place defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible. (NIV)

Prov 3:9-10 (NIV)

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

We can't get out of honoring God because we are supporting our parents either. God calls us to move in the spirit of the law and not the letter. Who do you think was the greatest example of honoring parents in the Bible? Jesus!

His natural parents-

Luke 2:41-52

41 Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.

42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.

43 After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (NIV)

Even though he knew who he was, even though he was eager to get on with his ministry, even though at twelve he could confound the best religious minds of his time, he still was obedient to Mary and Joseph. If any child ever had a right to say, "I know more than you and am better than you are, so don't tell me what to do," it was Jesus. But he didn't. He was an obedient child.

What if honoring her by providing for his widowed mother?

John 19:25-27

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son,"

27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. (NIV)

When we consider the magnitude of what Jesus was accomplishing that day, it seems almost startling that he had the presence of mind to make sure that his mother was provided for. Jesus was characterized in his life as a son who was obedient to his earthly parents.

The Heavenly Father-

Luke 22:41-44

41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,

42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (NIV)

Even though what the Father was asking him to do was to die horrible, Jesus subjugated his will to the Father's will.

Heb 5:7-10

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. (NIV)

It is one thing to obey the Father when he says to open your mouth and command the dead to rise, quite another when he says to close your mouth and die. Following the order to die brought Jesus to a deeper level of obedience than he had walked in before. This is what is meant by "he learned obedience from what he suffered." Jesus has always been obedience to the cross was the ultimate manifestation of that obedience.

Phil 2:5-13

5 The Humbled and Exalted Christ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth,
and of those under the earth,
11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
12 Light Bearers Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only,
but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (NKJ)

In the days before Israel had a king, an unfaithful priest by the name of Eli misruled his household and dishonored God. In consequence, his children lost their place in the priesthood as well as their lives. The father died when he heard of the loss of the Ark of the Covenant. He fell out of his chair and he was so heavy that he fall of his body broke his neck. His daughter-in-law gave full expression to the sad state of the family and the nation. With her dying breath, she named her son Ichabod. Because a father had not raised his children correctly, because sons had not obeyed their father, the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel.

Nearly 1100 years later, one was born who was the glory of God (John 1:14; Heb. 1:3). He not only honored his earthly parents, he obeyed his Heavenly Father in all that he did. He was obedient to the cross and became the high priest after the order of Malchisedec. And because of his obedience, God exalted him above all and gave him a name above every name; that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow to the glory of God the Father.

We want to live in the presence of God. We want to experience the manifest presence of his glory. What is one of the mast practical keys of making this a reality in our lives? "Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."