



# Teaching Children To Honor Their Parents

By Dale Payne

## **Honor:**

- To fix value, revere, venerate, respect, admire, exalt, make a distinction, give high regard, regard as important
- \* Human value is not determined by what one does, but is ascribed by God.

## **Honoring God Above All:**

- to submit or yield to our rights to the sovereign will & authority of God

John 5:23 "All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him." (8:49)

Romans 2:23,24 "You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

Titus 2:5 "...So that no one will malign (dishonor) the Word of God."

1 Samuel 2:29,30 "Why do you honor your sons more than me... Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained."

Malachi 1:6 "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."

Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."

- Warnings:

Isaiah 29:13 "They honor me with their lips - but their heart is far from me."

Romans 1:21 "Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God nor give thanks..."

- Parallel with heavenly Father and earthly fathers (mothers) (love/obedience/honor/relationship) (Heb. 12:5-13; Prov. 3:12) (2 Cor. 6:18; Ps. 103:13; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6)
- Honor God is foundational to honoring any other authority, including one's parents. (Exodus 4:16; 7:1 parents representative of God)

## **Honoring One's Parents:**

*"Honor, the foundation from which all other elements of Christian character arise, refers primarily to a condition of the heart and mind, an inner attitude that inevitably manifests itself in outer words, action, and demeanor. Honor expresses the genuine and deep veneration within*

*the child's heart towards those to whom honor is due. It recognizes our indebtedness, our obligation, to those whom we honor. It expresses the value we place upon them, since if we value them, we will pay attention to them and spend time for them. Because it expresses the sincere and true feeling of our hearts, it will inevitably cause us to act in a way that brings honor toward those for whom we have this feeling... If we begin by truly honoring those to whom honor is due, then all the other elements of Christian character will come forth in our lives."*

*(Building Christian Character, Blair Adams, p.13)*

**Exodus 20:12** "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD God is giving you." (Deut. 5:16)

**Leviticus 19:3** "Each of you must respect his mother and father... I am the LORD your God." (Matt. 15:4)

**Deuteronomy 27:16** "Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother." (Micah 7:2,6; Prov. 30:11,17; 20:20)

**Ephesians 6:1-3** "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother - which is the first commandment with a promise - that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Col. 3:20)  
(promise of blessing if obedient)

**Hebrews 12:9** "We have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it."

- A child learns how to respect and honor at home.
- Parents, how you treat each other in your marriage will set the tone of honor and respect in your home. (Eph. 5:33; 1 Pet. 3:2,7)

## **How Do We Train Children To Honor Their Parents?**

1. Honor parents by obedience. (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20; 2 Tim. 3:2)  
"Children, obey your parents... for this is right... Honor..."
  - Obedience is an expression of honoring
  - First Time Obedience ("Yes Mom, Yes Dad!")  
Delayed obedience is disobedience.
  - Cheerful, Willing, Quick obedience (heart attitude)
2. Honor parents in speech (appropriate words spoken)  
-Not in a disrespectful tone of voice (belittling, demeaning, treating the parent as though they were the child, sarcastic, sassy, talking back) ("I'm right, you're wrong", "I know better")  
"Yes Mom... Yes Dad!"

**"How could you say that differently so that it would not be disrespectful?"**

**\*Train children to not demand but to instead ask a question. Instead of "Give me a fork!"  
Ask, "Mom, will you hand me a fork, please?"**

**- Not harsh or angry tone of voice**

**Exodus 21:17 "He who curses his father and his mother shall surely be put to death." (Matt. 15:4; Prov. 20:20; Leviticus 20:9)**

**Proverbs 30:11-14 "There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers..."**

**Proverbs 15:23 "apt answer" "timely word"**

**Proverbs 25:11 "a word spoken in right circumstances."**

**Proverbs 10:32 "the lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable."**

### **3. Honor parents in behavior**

**Proverbs 23:22 "Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old."**

**Proverbs 11:29 "He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind."**

**Proverbs 19:26 "He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame & disgrace." 28:24**

**Genesis 9:20-27 Ham's dishonor, Japheth & Shem's honor.**

**-Not inappropriate non-verbal body language (haughty eyes/face)**

**Proverbs 30:13,17 "those whose eyes are ever so haughty and whose glances are so disdainful..." "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother."**

**Psalms 18:27; 101:5; Prov. 6:16,17**

### **4. Honor parents in attitude**

- Problem of entitlement attitude ("You owe me" "I deserve it")**
- Problem of dependence -v- working for independence**  
**"You should do it for me." "I can learn to do it for myself."**  
**(developing self-confidence and a helpful spirit)**
- Problem of a child-centered home (center of the universe)**
  - Selfishly taking the parents focus off needed tasks to prefer the child's wishes & needs.**
  - Dishonoring parents by being insensitive, interrupting, or disruptive. (Prov. 19:13)**
  - Train a child to patiently wait for an opportunity**
- Treating parents as ">" rather than "<" or "= to" (inferior)**

**Proverbs 17:6** "Children's children are the crown of old men and the glory of children is their father."

\* Godly influence generates mutual love and respect in a family & extends from generation to generation.

5. Honor parents by having a grateful (thankful) heart

**Romans 1:21** "Although they knew God, they neither glorified (honored) Him as God, nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." (honor = thankfulness)

- Saying please, thank you, and asking permission acknowledges a higher authority over our lives and our need to submit to that authority humbly. We should not demand our rights but submit our needs to the graciousness of another.

6. Honor parents by silence and a listening ear (attentiveness)

**Proverbs 1:8,24,25; 4:1,-5; 8:32-34; 18:13; 22:17,18; 23:22** "Listen my son..." "Pay attention to..."

**Warning:** Parents need to be cautious about saying negative comments about their own parents with their children present.

- How does a child behave when his parents are not around? This is a true test whether honor is in his heart.

## **Honoring Parents Once A Child Leaves The Home:**

**Leviticus 19:32** "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God, I am the LORD."

1 **Timothy 5:1,2** "Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."

1 **Peter 5:5** "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourself with humility toward one another..."

**Proverbs 16:31; 20:29** "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life." "...Gray hair is the splendor of the old."

1 **Kings 2:19,20** Even Solomon honored his mother as an adult even when her request was not acceptable.

\* Hold grandparents in high regard (remember family contribution)

\* "Once an adult - twice a child."

## **Honoring Parents As They Age:**

**1 Timothy 5:4,8,16** "If a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family, and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God." "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." "If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need."

**Matthew 15:3-9** "Corban" was a tradition that excused a person from providing for his parents' material needs by giving money to the temple. "Dedicated" money excused one from any obligation to support one's parents because it was reserved for God. This was in direct violation of God's command to honor one's parents.

- **Bring the children with you to a rest home to see your grandma or aunt.**
- **How are we modeling to our children the honor, care, and provision we should give to our aging parents? How should it be any different from the way we would hope our kids would treat us in our old age?**