

Ephesians Chapter 6
Week 2, v.2-3

Last week we began with Eph 6:1 which says: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.* How were you able to apply the truths in this verse during your week?

Paul continues to apply the example of submitting to one another which began in Eph 5:21 which says: *and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

Eph 6:2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

Prov 6:20 My son, observe the commandment of your father, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother;

Prov 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Col 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

What does it mean to honor someone? What things would you do to honor someone?

Honour <timao> to prize, to fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere

To value someone means to place worth, importance and usefulness on them. In the dictionary, the action of showing value is appreciation and respect.

Ephesians 6:2 is quoted from the covenant that God gave to Moses in Exodus.

Ex 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, *that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

We find this commandment again in Deuteronomy:

De 5:16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, *that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

There is a promise of blessing contained in these verses however, just as the motivation to obey needs to come from the heart, the motivation to honor parents should come from a heart that desires to please God, not from what the benefits might be. A child may initially learn to act a certain way because they are fearful of negative consequences. Hopefully as they mature, their choices to obey will come from a desire to honor their parents *because they love God*.

What about honoring parents as grown children? How do we do this? What does it look like in practical terms in our relationship with them? What does it look like in our spouses and children's relationship with them? How can we encourage the honoring of our parents within our own families?

Honor means to place a value on something. *Who gave you your parents?* God does not make mistakes. He purposefully placed you in the family He chose for you. Sometimes, in our immaturity, pride and selfishness, we can easily get stuck on all the things we perceive our parents did wrong. Whatever they might have done or did not do, the fact is that God gave us the parents we have as His perfect provision for our lives. They are His blessing to us. When we focus on the negative, we are excusing our own responsibility to follow God's command – to honor our parents. Just as we are responsible to follow and submit to our husband if we are married, we are to honor our parents whether in our eyes (which do not see all things as they truly are) they deserve it or not. We need to be thankful for all things God places in our lives knowing that He will use them to glorify His name.

Ro 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose.

Do you believe the promise in Romans 8:28?

If you do, you will thank God for exactly how you were raised – right or wrong, good or bad, nurtured or abandoned. God has had His hand on you the entire time.

Do you need to change the attitude you have towards your parents? Are there relationships that you need to take a step towards reconciling? Do you encourage a relationship between yourself and your parents? Do you encourage a relationship between your spouse and your parents? How do you speak about your parents to your spouse, to your children? Do you encourage a relationship between your children and your parents? Take some time to specifically look for those things in your parents' lives that are honorable and focus on them.

If we desire to follow God's instruction in *all things* we cannot ignore this area. Choosing to harbor and build upon resentment is not honoring to anyone. According to the Bible, we are to:

Ps 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it.

Ro 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Ro 14:19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

What can help us fulfill the commands in the verses above?

On a personal note, it helps me to remember all the mistakes I've made – the times I have not made the best decisions or had the best reactions. Even in these times, God's grace has covered me, He has forgiven me, He has blessed me with his unfailing love and has remained faithful towards me.

In thinking upon this, how can you not show that same consideration to the parents God used to bring you into this world?

Getting back to younger children, or those still living under their parents roof, there is a clear obligation in the first two verses of Ephesians 6 for a child to obey and honor parents. However, we can't dismiss the obligation on the parent's end. A parent has the responsibility to teach a child to obey and honor authority (Deut 6:6-9). Are you, as a parent, giving your child clear direction to obey? Are you living your life in a way that shows you are worthy of your children's honor?

Eph 6:3 THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

The above verse is a promise following the command in verse 2: HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

Eph 6:3 is quoted from Exodus 20:12 - "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

The Jewish people were promised as a nation that they would live long in the land that God had given them if they would obey Him. The result of obedience to God's commands today is the same as it was thousands of years ago – God blesses

obedience. **What is the conclusion we can make from this verse?** To honor parents brings blessing.

What does this look like for a child still in the home? Think about what might happen to a young child when they disobey their parents. For instance, sticking something in an electrical outlet, playing around a hot oven or stove, and climbing something that is too high or unstable can lead to dangerous physical consequences. Most parents make choices for their children based upon wisdom built through experience. These choices are intended to keep their children from harm or from making grave mistakes. Bad choices can lead to unnecessary struggles and perhaps even shorten a life.

Isa 3:10 Say to the righteous that [it will go] well [with them,] For they will eat the fruit of their actions.

"...children who are kind, respectful, and obedient to parents, take the way to become blessings to themselves, their parents, the church of God, and the world"
Family Bible Notes

Pr 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

De 4:40 "So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

De 5:16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

This promise is always fulfilled, either literally, or by the substitution of a higher blessing, namely, one spiritual and eternal (Job 5:26; Pr 10:27). Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

Job 5:26 Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season. KJV

Full age <kelach> meaning to be complete; maturity

Perhaps this means that the number of our years to complete what God has planned for us will not be cut short. We will not die before our appointed time because of harm or carelessness brought on by ourselves.

How can we, as parents, encourage and teach our children to respond to God's commands to honor and obey? What do they see in your example?

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Application

Read Ephesians Chapter 6, then go back and re-read verses 2 and 3.

What does it mean to honor someone?

Think of some examples.

What should be the motivation to obey the command in Eph 6:2?

How have you shown honor to your parents, and if you are married, to your spouse's parents?

Is your responsibility to show honor to your parents based on their merits or God's love?

If you struggle in this area, are you willing to pray about it and begin to change your attitude?

Look up Romans 8:28. What does it say?
Do you believe this promise?

Are you able to thank God for His perfect provision in providing for you the parents He chose?

Look up the following verses. What are they telling you?

Ps 34:14

Ro 12:18

Ro 14:19.

Think of a time when you were disobedient to God's word. What was the result?

Now, think of those times when you have obeyed God's word. Compare the results.

What things tempt you to disobey?

How can you avoid these temptations?

Use your "Apply It" bookmark and carefully consider what God might have you do this week in response to His word.