

The Fifth Commandment

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BIG SANDY, Texas—We as believers are thankful that we are saved by grace. In fact, we should reflect our appreciation by giving much thought and attention into recognizing God's expectations for us.

We can reflect back to the time in the Old Testament when the children of Israel were brought out of the land of Egypt—the house of bondage (Exodus 20:1-2)—and remember that God gave them instructions about how to live (verses 3-17).

Let's spend some time considering the Fifth Commandment.

Exodus 20:12—"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

Honor your parents with obedience

There are many scriptures that show the responsibility of children to honor their parents with their obedience.

The apostle Paul wrote about this concept in his letters to the congregations at Ephesus (Ephesians 6:1-3) and at Colosse (Colossians 3:20).

Honor parents with words

There are many scriptures that instruct children to avoid cursing their parents. Here is one example.

Exodus 21:17—"And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death."

Honor parents with money

We realize that the Bible has various instructions about how parents should give money to their children and grandchildren.

Two important verses to read about this concept are Proverbs 13:22 and 2 Corinthians 12:14.

Yet we also see that the children and grandchildren also have responsibilities to give money to their aging parents and grandparents. Notice 1 Timothy 5:4,8.

Correcting the elders

One of the famous times that Jesus Christ corrected the elders had to do with when they discouraged people to avoid taking care of their parents.

The example is found in Mark 7:1-13. The overall context is how the elders influenced the people to place an emphasis on the traditions of the elders instead of focusing upon the commandments of God.

Jesus mentioned that He could have used many examples to make His point (verses 8, 13).

However, the specific example He used was to show how the elders influenced people to pay the corban (money for religion) instead of taking care of their parents (verses 11-12).

Mark 7:11-12—"But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God), "then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother." ' "

Did you notice that Jesus at this moment was not primarily correcting the neglectful children? He was correcting the elders for being such a horrible influence!

Honor your parents by remembering the fatherless

There are many scriptures that instruct believers to remember the fatherless (such as Psalm 82:3 and James 1:27).

Helping the fatherless honors the family name of your physical parents, but it does something more than that.

There are many scriptures that reveal that God is the helper of the fatherless (such as Psalm 10:14 and Psalm 68:5).

Helping the fatherless honors our Father in heaven.

Sterling example

There are many scriptures that demonstrated how Jesus Christ honored His Father (such as John 8:49).

And, by reading John 19:26-27, we see that one of His last acts during His crucifixion was to honor His mother.