

Honor Your Father and Mother

Why did God give us this commandment?

1. Because there are no _____.
2. Because when you honor your parents, you _____.
3. A strong family is the basic building block of an orderly society. How I relate to my family will affect every other relationship in my life.
4. Because He wants you to have the _____
_____. See Exodus 20:12.

What does it mean to “honor” your parents?

In English, the meaning of “honor” and “respect” is about the same. In Hebrew, though, the word kavod means “to demonstrate deserved deference.” The Bible does not command us to respect our parents, in the sense that we must hold them in high regard. Instead, we are commanded to behave in a certain way towards them that reflects their status as parents, sometimes in spite of our opinions and emotions about them.

“According to Jewish tradition, to honor one’s parents meant to ‘serve food and drink, provide clothing and shelter, and lead them in and out’ as long as the parent is alive.... Jewish tradition interpreted ‘reverence’ as meaning that we should not ‘stand or sit in our parents’ reserved place, nor should we contradict their words.’ Honor was demonstrated through acts of kindness and caring, while reverence meant to refrain from actions that diminished their role as parent or embarrassed them in public.”

– Rabbi Stewart Vogel

How can I honor my parents?

1. As a child, I honor my parents by _____ and _____ them. See Ephesians 6:1.
2. As a young adult, I honor my parents by _____ and _____ them. Accepting your parents means:
 - Realizing that God used them to bring me into the world.
 - Listening to what they have to say. See Proverbs 23:22.
 - Forgiving them for the unintentional and intentional hurts.
 - Remembering everything they did for you. At the very least you can appreciate their effort and their sacrifice.
3. As an adult, I honor my parents by _____ and not _____ them. See 1 Timothy 5:8.

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