

## HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER

Ephesians 6:1-2, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)"

When one first opens his or her Bible to Paul's letter to the Ephesians, they will read much about the Lord saving His people from their sins. The first two chapters inform us of the election, predestination, redemption and regeneration (quickenings) of the people of God. In chapter three, the Apostle begins somewhat of a transition in the letter. Paul begins to call on the disciples at Ephesus to put into practice the grace that is in their hearts by God's Sovereign Grace. The Apostle exhorts the Ephesians to live like a child of God so the Lord would be glorified in their temporal life.

In Ephesians chapter 6, as part of his effort of exhortation, Paul reminds them of one of the Commandments of the Lord. In Exodus 20:12, the Lord wrote with His finger on tables of stone, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." The commandment, according to Paul, held as much weight and importance in his day as it did the day God wrote it and gave it to Moses. Dear saints of God, it is still the same today. I would offer four reasons why we should keep this commandment, which are:

(1) Honoring thy father and thy mother honors God! Jesus said in John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:..." By honoring our father and mother, we justify (declare to be right) the commandment by our actions. In the same manner the people "justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John" in Luke 7:29, we ourselves declare (in the eyes of men and angels) God to be right in His perfect and holy commandments by us honoring our father and mother.

(2) God commanded us to do so! If there were no other reason given, this is enough. If the Lord, who "made the world and all things therein, seeing He is Lord of heaven and of earth" (Acts 17:24), commands us, we should willingly obey without question or complaint.

(3) Honoring your father and mother shows a spirit of thanksgiving to God! When we think back in our lives, we can only remember back so far. I personally can remember a time when I was 4 years old when my family moved from one area to another. You may remember times before that age, but for the most part, 3-4 is a general age of remembrance. Before there was a time that I can remember, my father and mother provided care for me that I could not provide for myself. The nourishment, clothing and care that I needed was provided for me when I didn't know how to ask. By honoring your father and mother, you thank the Lord, and them, for the care given to you at that time.

(4) Blessings and fellowship with the Lord are obtained by doing so! According to Paul, this was the first commandment with promise. The Lord promised to bless the people who would keep this commandment with long life.

In Deuteronomy 21:18-23 we read of the Lord's commands concerning dealing with a stubborn and rebellious son which would not obey. The son who honored not his father and mother would be taken by the men of the city to "stone with stones, that he die:" (Deut 21:21). I realize that this account was under the first covenant of service, but the Lord is still the Righteous Judge of the earth today. If we desire a long life of fellowship with the Lord, we should labor diligently to keep His commandments.

Brothers and sisters, has not God been good to us by blessing us with godly fathers and mothers? I personally thank God daily for the daddy and mama that I have been blessed to have. I recognize

that my experience may be different than others, but the experience that I have had has given me an example of parenting my children. My mother is still with us today, my daddy has gone home to be with Jesus. My prayer is that the Lord would bless me with strength and convict my heart to honor my mother as long as she lives, and by doing so, I trust and pray the Lord will be honored by my life.

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