

The 10 Commandments: Honor Your Mom and Dad

Reflect

1. When was a time you upset your parents?
2. When was a time you honored them?
3. How did they react on each occasion?

Read Your Bible

- Deuteronomy 5:16
- Matthew 15:1-11

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What is the promise attached to this commandment in Deuteronomy 5:16? How have you found that to be true in your life? Where have you struggled with that promise in your life?
2. Read Mark 7:9-13. Compare to Matthew 15:1-11
3. What is more important the letter of the law, or the intent of the law?
4. In your own words write the intent of the fourth commandment.
5. How difficult is it to keep the intent of the law?
6. When are obeying one's parents and honoring one's parents at odds?
7. Read the conclusion.
8. Considering Jesus' teaching and Luther's explanation, what are some concrete steps for you to live out this commandment well?

Conclusion

The commandment to "honor your father and mother..." is a commandment that is mentioned several times in scripture. A non-exhaustive list includes Exodus, Deuteronomy, Matthew, Mark, and

Ephesians. Clearly, this commandment is important for us to keep. And when we break it, we need to repent of our sin.

Jesus speaks to the commandment in that we need to have integrity in our keeping of it. Jesus calls out the abusive practice called “Corban.” Corban is a Hebrew word that can be translated as offering. The practice of declaring property Corban had devolved into a scheme where property was dedicated for religious purposes upon the owner’s death. However, that dedicated property could not be used for any secular practice including caring for aging parents. Therefore the owner could benefit from the property, and yet not be obligated or allowed to help their parents with that property.

We need to seriously consider Jesus’ teaching. This commandment runs through every facet of our lives. The reformer, Martin Luther, rightly interpreted the intent of this commandment in The Small Catechism. It reads, “We are to fear and love God, so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.”

Pray

Father in heaven, thank you for godly mothers and fathers. Thank you for those who practice their authority with humility and reverence for you. With the aid of your Spirit may we honor our mothers and fathers in all we do. Where there are broken relationships, may forgiveness, healing, and restoration be possible. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.