

Honor your Mother (Slide 1)

Ephesians 6:2

Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-5

From our reading: there is absolutely no doubt that Timothy honored his mother and grandmother. His sincere faith came from theirs and what they taught him. How truly blessed he was to have a Godly mother and grandmother and in turn so are they to have a child who listened and believed.

Ephesians 6:1-2 (Slide 2)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 so THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

The Apostle Paul signifies that the command of God, given through the Ten Commandments, still stands even into the New Testament era. That command is still to be adhered to by all that God would call through the *Holy Scripture*.

To have a deep understanding as to the meaning of “*honor*” is important in our development regarding pleasing the Lord God in family relations.

(Slide 3) “*Honor*” comes from a Hebrew word that means *to place significant value on something*. In this case, it is our parents. We are to place such a great value on them that they are like a *prized possession*.

It is also interesting that the Hebrew word carries as part of its definition “*to be heavy*.” For example someone who is “heavy” in wealth, or of great importance or tremendous value in the lives of others.

The Bible illustrates this “*high regard*” through the life of Samuel.

1 Samuel 9:6 (Slide 4)

"Behold now, there is a man of God in this city, and the man is held in honor; all that he says surely comes true."

A person we honor then is respected, honest and reliable who has the best interest of others at heart even to the point of sacrificing their own needs to supply the needs of others. We can count on them in times of uncertainty, fear, or hardship to lead and advise. Thus, our Mother!!

If we were to create our own dictionary, when we look to find the meaning of honor it wouldn't be inappropriate for many, individually, to place a picture of our earthly father and mother within our definition.

(Slide 5) Apostle Paul writes; ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.....***then quotes the Old Testament command. The very fact that this is written in both covenants makes it an absolute expectation from God. Obeying God's commands is pleasing to Him. So then, obeying our parents is pleasing to God.

But what if one or more of our parents are no longer with us?

Both of my parents are no longer present here on earth. But rest assured, what they taught, what they believed, how they lived is with me as if they were standing by my side at this moment.

I don't have to wonder what they would think or if they would approve of my decisions as an adult. In fact, I seek their counsel often from my memory of them that is forever ingrained in my heart and mind.

I don't have to wonder how they would interact with others today. I don't have to wonder what they would think about lifestyles that oppose God's laws or any sin that so often has control over so many. Their life and their values still weigh "heavy" in my life and in all circumstances!!

Though my Mother would be displeased with much that transpires in our world today, she would maintain her high level of compassion and hope for many to repent.

Her soft spoken voice would deliver a scathing rebuke to what she would witness, yet, it would be of utmost value because her correction would be guided by love based upon her relationship with Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:20 (Slide 6)

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

One of the greatest elements within the practice of “*honor*” is obedience. There are countless areas in our lives where we show honor by obedience in the sense of loyalty and respect. School, work, relationships, country, and in particular and most importantly, the church.

Certainly, the Apostle Paul is talking to Christians and relaying a message that comes from inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I believe he is also speaking to children who are of an age to understand.

What He says aligns with the writer of Proverbs who encourages a righteous perspective toward our parents.

Proverbs 1:8-10 (Slide 7)

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction

And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head

And ornaments about your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you,

Do not consent.

It is no accident that the instruction of Godly parents would warn of allowing others to control or guide us to sin. It is our parents' advice that often prevents us from getting so deep into sin that we cannot return.

The prodigal son is a great example of having an awakening in the midst of *self-inflicted* turmoil, finally realizing at “*rock bottom*” the security he once had.

Proverbs 22:6 (Slide 8)

***Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.***

Some might turn their head for a time but that instruction during one's development can awaken their senses and they will return.....*more humble, with greater respect, trust, and faith.*

Even in times of discipline one must incline their ear to listen:

Proverbs 15:5 (Slide 9)

***A fool rejects his father's discipline,
But he who regards reproof is sensible.***

A father's discipline can be different from a mother's discipline. My father's discipline was like this: “*Because I said so*” - “*do it or else.*” Don't get me wrong, that does not mean he didn't love us but he had high expectations that we would respect him.....and we did.

My mother's discipline was that of trying to reason and explain why.....but when that failed she had a fall back.....“*wait until your dad gets home*” or “*I'm going to call your Dad!*” That worked really well!

I appreciate their instruction more now than at any time in my life. In fact, I miss it tremendously.

Sadly, today many children fail to honor their parents and many parents fail to see their children as treasures.

Psalm 127:3 (Slide 10)

***Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.***

Proverbs 30:11 (Slide 11)

***There is a kind of man who curses his father
And does not bless his mother.***

Proverbs 30:17 (Slide 12)

***The eye that mocks a father
And scorns a mother,
The ravens of the valley will pick it out,
And the young eagles will eat it.***

Proverbs 20:20 (Slide 13)

***He who curses his father or his mother,
His lamp will go out in time of darkness.***

Just when he needs the guidance or comfort of his parents the most, they won't be there.

There will be an extreme penalty to pay for dishonoring those who God says to honor.

(Slide 14) The word “curses” has more meaning than just bad language. It actually means to “*make light of one’s parents.*” It means that a child is displaying contempt toward their parents.

Mark 7:8-13 (Slide 14)

8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

9 He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; (Slide 15) and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH'; 11 but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' (Slide 16) 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

Today, many people make excuses for not meeting out their responsibility towards their parents. Their money is spent on self and not the welfare of those who brought them into the world.

In the old law, to curse one's parents meant the death penalty.

Exodus 21:15 (Slide 17)

"He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death."

Exodus 21:17

"He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death."

Why so harsh? Because in God's view, if a child curses (or strikes) their parents engulfed in contempt they will feel the same toward every other authority God has established. That couldn't be more evident than it is today.

Even those who are not our parents deserve honor.

Leviticus 19:32 (Slide 18)

'You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.

Yet, day after day in our society the aged are taken advantage of and most certainly looked upon by many with contempt.

It is no surprise that much of what we witness today is because many in society do not raise their children ***"in the Lord."*** *There is a direct correlation.*

If you have or had parents who raised you ***"in the Lord"*** how truly blessed you are or have been!!!

My mother read to us the Holy Scripture or Bible stories when we were young. She wanted us to know the Lord!!

My parents took us and often had to make us come to church when we were young. They wanted us to know the Lord!! How truly blessed we have been to have had Godly parents!!

The First Commandment with a Promise!!

(Slide 19) ***1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.***

That promise is interesting to contemplate and as I thought about it, I have come to a couple of conclusions. The first affects the second.

Life is much less complicated if we have listened to the wise counsel of Godly parents. They have experience and have no personal motives to achieve only what's best for their children. That long life is enhanced because our lives are greatly enriched because of our parents' guidance.

Secondly, sometimes children who have honored their Godly parents, did not have long lives. Though I believe he is certainly talking about this life, I also am convinced that there is a Spiritual message.

Godly parents will have encouraged their children to be saved. Eternity then is that forever and ever life.

I can say for certain, what a blessing it has been to have had a Godly Mother!

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers. May God richly bless you, especially you young mothers who face, what I believe is greater difficulty from society than what my parents experienced!!

Invitation

Today we invite you to hear the *invitation*. Become a child of God and get on the road to that *blessed forever and ever home*. Be *baptized* for the *remission of sin* and Jesus will add you to *His church*.

If you are a child of God but need the prayers of your brethren for whatever reason, please let us know.

Let your wish be known today.....

Reading:

2 Timothy 1:1-5

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 For I

am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

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