

Commandment # 5: Honor Thy Father And Mother

This commandment is found in Exodus 20: 12

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

What does this commandment mean to you?

This sounds like it is open to interpretation, but it isn't.

Our parents are usually our best teachers and love us the most. They also are much older and might need help as they age from somewhere and a lot of times, their children are to be their greatest helpers.

Take a look though at this cartoon clip from **Old Money** from The Simpsons.

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Old_Money.webm

What do you see in this clip?

The Simpson family take Grampa (Homer's Dad) to the liquor store for a Sunday activity. This is very boring to him and complains rightfully (not much of a trip), then behind Grampa's back they start talking about his old man smell as people call it and Homer joins in.

What do you think of this way of talking about someone like a parent?

The opening of this episode is absolutely hilarious with them talking like that, however there is profound truth here. Old parents are sometimes thought of as burdensome if the heart of caregivers (like children) aren't right. Rightfully so, this is a shame and we have to learn to ask God's help with

this or we can easily fall into breaking this seemingly seldom thought of commandment in these days. To remind us of what is right here, there are a few of scripture passages to look at.

These are found in Proverbs 19: 26, 20: 20, 23: 22

Pro 19:26 Whoever mistreats his father and alienates his mother is a son who brings both shame and disrespect.

Pro 20:20 Whoever curses his father or mother, his lamp will be extinguished in the deepest darkness.

Pro 23:22 Listen to the one who fathered you, and don't despise your mother in her old age.

I would think that neglect is hateful and yes, a kind of curse. These scriptures all talk about having good tight relations with a parent/child family. It's interesting that the last scripture talks only about listening to the father with the talk of hate of a parent in old age only centering around the mother. I think that this by default would cover both parents

due to the context of the scriptures.

We are also going to talk about wanton disrespect as well.

If we look at the last part of the account of Noah, it's interesting. This scripture is found in Genesis 9: 18-29

Gen 9:18 Noah's sons who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham later fathered Canaan.)

Gen 9:19 These three were Noah's sons, and from these men the whole earth was re-populated.

Gen 9:20 Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant and farm a vineyard.

Gen 9:21 He drank some of the wine, got drunk, and lay down naked right in the middle of his tent.

Gen 9:22 Ham, who fathered Canaan, saw his father's genitals and told his two brothers outside.

Gen 9:23 Then Shem and Japheth took their father's cloak, laid it across both their shoulders, and walking backwards, they both covered their father's

genitals. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's genitals.

Gen 9:24 When Noah sobered up and learned what his youngest son had done to him,

Gen 9:25 he said, "Canaan is cursed! He will be the lowest of slaves to his relatives."

Gen 9:26 He also said, "Blessed be the LORD God of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave.

Gen 9:27 May God make room for Japheth; may God live in Shem's tents, and may Canaan serve him."

Gen 9:28 Noah lived 350 years after the flood.

Gen 9:29 After Noah had lived a total of 950 years, he died.

At first, this doesn't appear to be that big of a deal that Ham saw his father like that, until you realize that in Jewish culture, it was really shameful to look.

A couple of friends of mine thought that the real shame was staring and possibly making fun and telling the brothers about it in the form of a joke. I

don't know necessarily where the sin literally is except an educated guess, but I tend to agree. Because of committing a sin of disrespect, Ham's lineage was ruined which is the penalty for the sin of dishonoring his parent. Ham's bloodline would be tainted with enmity towards Israel and vice-versa. Canaan would found a land that would ultimately be taken away and given to God's chosen people and then become a slave to the other bloodlines' descendants.

Disrespecting parents can ultimately ruin the chance for an otherwise good inheritance and God's blessing of success.

What do you think of Marge's reaction?

Marge at first seems to brush Grampa off too, but then tries to gently correct the family by reminding Homer that they will be old some day and they may need to set a good example. I think this is wonderful and a good reminder of what should be done in reaction to this kind of a lack of respect.

The next thing we want to look at is obedience to a parent's teaching.

Let's look at **Fuzzle Trouble** from The Smurfs.

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Fuzzle_Trouble.webm

What do you see in this cartoon?

Clumsy doesn't obey Papa Smurf's sound teaching. Why?

You have to understand that these Fuzzles are adorable and cute and they seem to really love who they are with, but they can really eat; they leave the Smurfs with virtually nothing, not to mention it was only one Fuzzle. The reason Papa Smurf wanted obedience and understanding was clear after the fact; Fuzzles are born pregnant. They

multiply like crazy just by eating enough. This is a disaster that could have been avoided if Clumsy would've trusted Papa Smurf.

How could things have been better?

One of the things that parents don't do sometimes is give reasons for their orders which causes the kids to see what happens. If Papa Smurf would have just said why Fuzzles were big trouble, Clumsy possibly wouldn't have brought one home. Brainy didn't help with his usual double standards, so if he wasn't encouraging in a way after receiving affection and not stopping Clumsy bringing one home, then this may not have happened either. Brainy, of course wants to look good so he more than willingly talks about reminding the others about the orders, then plays the blame game by making a big deal about it instead of coming up with ideas.

This is of course, presuming that parents won't steer children wrong, but this is sadly not always

the case. What happens then?

Watch this clip from DuckTales called **Hero For Hire**.

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Hero_For_Hire.webm

Ma Beagle says she raised her kids to have good qualities, but to use all that intellect to steal; this makes those qualities bad ones as she raised her kids to steal and is proud of it. These kids are honoring their parent in the wrong way.

God doesn't want us to follow bad doctrine from anyone including parents (Including and especially from someone like Ma Beagle), obedience isn't good when it doesn't lead to God's kingdom.

A good scripture to remember is Ephesians 6: 1-4

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.

Eph 6:2 "Honor your father and mother..." (This is a very important commandment with a promise.)

Eph 6:3 "...so that it may go well for you, and that you may have a long life on the earth."

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up by training and instructing them about the Lord.

Ma Beagle isn't righteous and therefore should never be followed, but sadly parents raise their children to actually do ungodly things all too often in real life (just like Ma Beagle).

What if a child has to make a choice between God and parents?

Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword!

Mat 10:35 I came to turn 'a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

Mat 10:36 A person's enemies will include members of his own family.'

Mat 10:37 "The one who loves his father or mother more than me isn't worthy of me, and the one who loves a son or daughter more than me isn't worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 The one who doesn't take up his cross and follow me isn't worthy of me.

Mat 10:39 The one who finds his life will lose it, and the one who loses his life because of me will find it."

Following Jesus a lot of times will not bring family support but the cold reality of hatred towards your mission or the family trying to be a stumbling block towards it.

We should and must choose God's way, so if it comes time to do literal work for Him and a parent becomes needy, the first line of defense is prayer in faith that everything about the parent goes well. It

is also likely wise to make sure the parent is taken care of by someone dependable so this work can be done effectively without much thought about other matters even if they are very important.

We are always marching closer to the “End Of Days” as the Bible puts it and we have to be ready to face another cold reality, that being disrespecting of parents and other sins like it will get much more frequent and grotesque.

Look at this scripture passage in Mark 13: 5-13; II Timothy 4: 1-5

Mar 13:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives facing the Temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew were asking him privately,

Mar 13:4 "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign when these things will be put into effect?"

Mar 13:5 Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one deceives you.

Mar 13:6 Many will come in my name and say, 'I AM,' and they will deceive many people.

Mar 13:7 But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, stop being alarmed. These things must take place, but the end hasn't come yet,

Mar 13:8 because nation will rise up in arms against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes and famines in various places. These things are only the beginning of the birth pains."

Mar 13:9 "As for yourselves, be on your guard! People will hand you over to local councils, and you will be beaten in their synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings to testify to them because of me.

Mar 13:10 But first, the gospel must be proclaimed to all nations.

Mar 13:11 "When they take you away and hand you over for trial, don't worry ahead of time about what you will say. Instead, say whatever is given to you at that time, because it won't be you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Mar 13:12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

Mar 13:13 You will be hated continuously by everyone because of my name. But the person who endures to the end will be saved."

2Ti 4:1 In the presence of God and the Messiah Jesus, who is going to judge those who are living and those who are dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly appeal to you

2Ti 4:2 to proclaim the message. Be ready to do this whether or not the time is convenient. Refute, warn, and encourage with the utmost patience when you teach.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when people will not tolerate healthy doctrine, but with itching ears will surround themselves with teachers who cater to their people's own desires.

2Ti 4:4 They will refuse to listen to the truth and will turn to myths.

2Ti 4:5 But you must be clear-headed about everything. Endure suffering. Do the work of an evangelist. Devote yourself completely to your ministry.

What if a parent(s) is/are abusive, what then?

A good scripture to look at here is Matthew 6: 14-15

Mat 6:14 Because if you forgive people their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mat 6:15 But if you do not forgive people their offenses, your Father will not forgive your offenses."

It looks to me that forgiveness is necessary for the honor that we are talking about to happen. Kids may have to be the example to the parent instead of the other way around. This sounds tough and is indeed.

We also have to understand that the honor we are talking about is good practice for giving God the respect and honor that He deserves as well. If we do what we are supposed to do with a righteous

heart, we will surely have God's promise of blessing on our lives and beyond—long life in the land that God is giving us. Remember, God's kingdom is eternal.