



Message Discussion Guide Week of October 15, 2023

Message: The Ten Commandments, Part 5: The Honor System

Key Scriptures: [Exodus 20:12](#), [John 19:25-27](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

By God's design, our relationship with our parents is the first and most important human relationship in our lives.

- Social sciences confirm that the top indicator of the physical, social, and emotional health of an adult is their parental relationship.
- Regardless of whether you have a good, bad, or non-existent relationship with your parents, your life is shaped by your parental relationships.

To “honor” means to “hold in highest respect.” In the Hebrew of the fifth commandment, the word for honor carries with it the connotation of heaviness. To honor your parents means respecting the heaviness of this relationship.

- There is much about our relationship with our parents that is out of our control.
- Regardless of circumstance, the fifth commandment applies to all of us. Even when our relationship with our parents is less than ideal, God still expects us to honor them.

The “honor system” when it comes to relating to our parents has three requirements:

1. **Respect** – Showing regard or consideration for our parents, in particular giving consideration to the place of authority God gives them in our lives.
2. **Obedience** – As long as we live with our parents, we owe them cheerful obedience. Even when we move out, we should give consideration to their counsel.
3. **Gratitude** – Parents sacrifice much for us. We need to learn to see their sacrifices and say, “thank you.”

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What does it mean to you to “honor your father and mother?” What are some ways you have tried to honor your parents? What are some ways this commandment has been a challenge for you?
- 2.) How does the way we honor our parents change over time? How should we honor our parents as children? How can we honor them when they are older? What about if they have passed away?
- 3.) [Read John 19:25-27](#)
 - a. How does Jesus show honor for his mother?
 - b. How does Jesus’ life and ministry model for us the 5th commandment?
- 4.) Read the Fourth Commandment in [Exodus 20:12](#):
 - a. What does the word “honor” mean? How do you show honor to someone?
 - b. What does the promise attached to this commandment mean?
- 5.) Pastor Tom shared that there are three requirements for obeying the 5th commandment: respect, obedience, and gratitude.
 - a. How do you show respect for parents at the various stages of your life?
 - b. How do you obey your parents? Are there any situations where it would be unwise to obey your parents?
 - c. Do you think kids have a tendency to be ungrateful toward their parents? If so, why? How can we become more intentional about saying “thank you?”
- 6.) If you are a parent, what is your role in helping your kids follow the 5th commandment? How can you encourage your kids to honor you?
- 7.) How can someone who has an estranged or rocky relationship with their parents obey the fifth commandment? What does the fifth commandment mean for someone whose parents have not been good to them?
- 8.) What is your primary takeaway from this message? What will you do this week to try to become more obedient to the fifth commandment?

Abundant Life Tip: Life goes better when we show honor to our elders, especially to the parents whom God has placed in our lives. We show honor when we give respect, obedience, and gratitude.