

Why we should honor our parents

Exodus 20:12

1) Introduction

a. Common conception of honor

i. When we think of honor, what do we commonly think of?

ii. Military

1. Perhaps what came to your mind were soldiers

2. who acted heroically and bravely in times of war

3. They are often awarded with what is called the medal of honor

4. Some of these brave soldiers live to receive
the medal

a. others with lost limbs

b. and others unable to

c. because they paid with their life

iii. Athletes

1. For me,

2. what came to my mind was when I met

Manny Pacquiao for the first time

3. I remember meeting him right on the night

before his fight with Miguel Cotto

4. I was taken up to his hotel room

a. which was full of his entourage

5. I felt like a VIP in the back of the stage

a. and not feeling like I belonged there

6. I was in shock and awe

a. that I was going to meet him

7. Finally, I was taken into his private room

a. where he signed some shirts

b. and a mini boxing glove

c. It finally culminated in a photo with
him

d. and I was off.

8. The whole time I was in shock

a. I was speechless

b. that I got to meet one of my heroes

c. I regret that I did not say anything

d. but if I could go back

e. I would have said, 'it is an honor to
meet you.'

iv. Summary

1. Yes, when we think of honor we often think
of military heroes

2. or elite athletes

3. However

a. I bet for most people when we thought
of the word honor

b. that our parents were not the first
thing to come to mind

4. Which is unfortunate because God wrote as
part of the ten commandments

a. to honor our parents

5. Why?

6. This is exactly what we will be looking at
today.

7. Why we should honor our parents.

1) God promises blessing when we honor our parents

a) Exposition (Exodus 20:12)

i) Let's look at the commandment again (read).

ii) Honor your father and your mother, (why?)

iii) that your days may be prolonged in the land which

LORD your God gives you.

iv) God's promise

(1) God gives us the reason why we should honor

our parents in the same sentence as his

commandment

(2) *So that your days may be prolonged in the land*

which God gives

(3) In Deuteronomy 5:16

(a) when Moses recounts the giving of the law on Mount Sinai to the Israelites, he says

(b) honor your father and mother, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which LORD your God gives you.

b) Exposition

i) In fact Deuteronomy is the verse that Paul quotes in his letter to the Ephesians in chapter 6 v.2-3,

(1) 6 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.

(2) Priority of honoring parents

- (a) First note that Paul points out that this commandment of honoring parents is the *first with a promise*
- (b) Some argue that actually the second commandment already had a promise
- (i) where God says he punishes the generations of idol worshippers
1. which are people who hate him
 2. but shows lovingkindness to those who love him
 3. and keep my commandments
- (c) However what is indisputable
- (d) is that out of the commandments that deal with relationships

(e) this is the only one that God attached a
promised to

(f) That's how significant it is to honor our parents

(g) In fact the commandment to honor our parents
is of such high importance

(i) it is the *first* commandment of all the
commandments relating with people

(ii) the relationship w/people commandments
being the final 5 commandments

c) Exposition

i) In Leviticus 19:1-4

ii) when God reiterates part of the ten commandments he
says,

iii) 19 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to all
the congregation of the people of Israel and say to

them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. 3 Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. 4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God.

- (1) What is the first commandment God starts with?
- (2) Was it do not make idols?
- (3) Was it do not murder?
- (4) No it was honor your mother and father

d) Exposition

- i) Honoring parents seem to be really important to God.
- ii) Exodus 21: 15 says,
- iii) 15 “Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.
- iv) Exodus 21:17 says.

v) 17 “Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

vi) I think we get the point.

e) The reason honoring parents is important

i) But why?

ii) Why is honoring parents the first commandment even before horrible crimes such as murder

iii) Adultery

iv) and stealing?

v) I will argue that people who fail to honor their parents

vi) will also be more prone to failing to follow the other commandments

vii) People who fail to honor their parents consistently

viii) are more likely to become criminals

(1) murderers

(2) thieves

(3) rapists

(4) etc.

ix) When children fail to heed the wisdom of their parents

(1) they fall into severe consequences

x) this is why Proverbs

(1) is constantly teaching children to listen to their
parents

(2) Proverbs 13:1 says,

(a) A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a
scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

xi) But when we honor our parents

(1) and heed their wisdom

(2) we are blessed

xii) We gain wisdom

(1) and are able to navigate life better than those
who do not

(2) leading to a better quality of life

(3) and yes longer life as well

xiii) Criminals, who often dishonor their parents

(1) do not live as long as those who do.

xiv) Not to mention the blessings that come with having a
positive relationship with parents

(1) emotional support

(2) financial support

(3) guidance

(4) etc.

xv) Societies that honor parents

(1) honor the elderly

(2) tend to flourish

xvi) You see this a lot in Asian cultures

xvii) Japan for example has the highest percentage of
people aged over 65+ at 28%

xviii) You see, God created the family

(1) as the building block society

xix) Failing families equal a failing society

xx) It is no wonder then to why honoring parent

(1) is of such high priority to God.

xxi) And that is the first reason why we should honor our
parents

(1) because it comes with a promise.

f) Application

i) But you're probably thinking,

(1) 'ok, how exactly can I honor my parents?'

ii) Let's look at the Hebrew word for honor which is kabod

iii) Kabod literally means heavy or weighty

iv) Basically this means to honor someone

(1) is to give someone great weight

(2) attention

(3) care

(4) respect

(5) due to their importance

(6) Because God has ranked the family

(a) with such high importance

(b) we are to honor our parents

v) This can look a little different depending on

circumstance

vi) For example.

vii) If you're married

(1) and no longer under direct authority of your
parents

(2) that means we honor our parents

(3) by spending time with them

(4) checking up on them

(5) speaking words of love

(6) and gratitude towards them

viii) If you are still under the authority of your parents

(1) you're of young age

(2) you're not married

(3) obedience is the primary way you honor your
parents

g) Exposition

i) This is why Paul said in the first verse of Ephesians 6

(1) before honoring parents,

(a) 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for
this is right.

ii) Children are to obey their parents in everything

iii) There are exceptions

(1) but we will get back to that

iv) If you want to honor your parents

(1) and receive God's promise

(2) children obey your parents

v) Now

(1) I can guarantee

(2) that even though I am not a parent yet

(3) that every single parent in this room

(4) is grinning right now

vi) But parents before you get too excited

vii) look at verse 4,

- (1) 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

viii) You see

- (1) there is a balance to children's obedience
- (2) and the balance is that fathers
- (3) do not provoke your children to anger

ix) You see

- (1) this expectation of biblical obedience
- (2) from children can be too easily abused

x) That is why God wrote in scripture

- (1) fathers do not provoke your children to anger

xi) Don't make them angry

- (1) by being a dictator in their lives

xii) Now

- (1) I bet the mothers in the audience
- (2) are happy
- (3) because they're thinking,
- (4) 'it says fathers not mother'
- (5) therefore moms can make their children angry
- (6) as much as they want!'

xiii) That doesn't work either

- (1) because the reason Paul says fathers
- (2) is in the following phrase,
- (3) 'but bring them up in the discipline and
instruction of the Lord.'

xiv) Fathers are to be leading their family

- (1) and children
- (2) in teaching them the way of Christ
- (3) Of course mothers are doing that as well

- (4) but fathers are to lead this
- (5) Instead of abusing children
- (6) by forcing them to obey you fathers
- (7) you have to do the hard work of teaching them

scripture

h) Transition

i) With everything clear now

- (1) this is how we honor our parents

ii) And this is the first reason we honor our parents

- (1) because God promises blessing to those who

honor their parents

iii) The second

iv) and I think most important reason

v) why we should honor our parents is:

- 2) God receives glory when we honor our parents

a) Exposition

i) The greatest example of honoring our parents

(1) To truly learn how to honor our parents

(a) we have to look at the greatest example

(2) The greatest child who ever existed

(a) Jesus

(3) How did Jesus honor his parents?

(4) Let's take a look

ii) Read Luke 2:41-52

(1) 41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; 43 and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were

unaware of it, 44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. 45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. 46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. 48 When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." 49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" 50 But

they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. 51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

b) Here, Jesus

i) when he was twelve,

ii) went with Mary and Joseph

iii) to celebrate the Passover at the temple in Jerusalem

c) It was when Mary and Joseph left Jesus

i) that they began to look for him

ii) and finally found Jesus in the temple

d) After the stress of looking for Jesus

i) Mary incorrectly blamed Jesus

ii) for the problem

iii) and so Jesus at twelve years old

iv) responds,

v) 'why is that you were looking for me? Did you not know
that I had to be in my Father's house?'

e) This is the key verse of this passage

(1) and is the reason why Luke records this for us

(2) in his gospel

ii) What Jesus is doing here

(1) is putting God above his parents.

iii) When Mary tells Jesus, 'your father'

(1) referring to Joseph

iv) Jesus responds with

(1) 'my father's house',

(2) referring to God

- (3) and the temple
- (4) distancing their relationship with him
- (5) and his relationship with God the Father

v) Jesus honored God

- (1) more than he honored his parents
- (2) In this event
- (3) he showed that he put his relationship with God
- (4) his ultimate parent
- (5) above all
- (6) even his earthly parents

f) Exposition

i) This was not the only time Jesus did this

ii) In John 2

- (1) when Jesus turned water into wine
- (2) Mary came to Jesus

(3) reporting to him that there was no more wine,

iii) And in John 2:4 Jesus responded,

(1) 4 And Jesus *said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.”

(a) Just to make clear the Greek word for ‘woman’,

(i) Gunai

(ii) is not one of disrespect

(iii) like in English,

(iv) but one of respect

(b) In any case

(i) Jesus made it clear to Mary

(ii) that his relationship with God

(iii) is more important

(iv) this his relationship to his mother

g) Exposition

i) This is why in Luke 14:26 Jesus said,

- (1) 26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

ii) Jesus taught

- (1) that our love for God
- (2) must surpass even our love for our family
- (3) our siblings
- (4) our spouse
- (5) and even our own parents

iii) Because how can we honor our parents

- (1) when we can't even honor our ultimate parent
- (2) God?

iv) That's right if you are a Christian

(1) our ultimate parent is God himself

v) If you are a Christian

(1) your relationship with your parents

(2) reflects your relationship with your ultimate
parent

(3) God

vi) No wonder God is dishonored

(1) when we dishonor our parents

vii) On the other hand

(1) when people see that we have a healthy

(2) honoring relationship with our parents

(3) and they know we are Christian

(4) they see

(5) that we must also have a healthy

(6) and honoring relationship with God

viii) Especially in a Western society and culture

- (1) that is dismissive
- (2) and disrespectful of parents
- (3) encourages teenage rebellion to parents
- (4) and more
- (5) youth who have a healthy relationship with their
parents
- (6) stand out
- (7) and that standing out gives glory to God

ix) That is why we honor our parents

- (1) because it gives glory to God

h) Application

i) So how exactly can we honor our parents

- (1) in a *God-glorifying* way?

ii) It starts with the right attitude

(1) Make it clear that your relationship with God

(2) Is more important

(3) than your relationship with your parents

(a) You need to make that clear to yourself

(b) To your parents

(c) Or both

(i) Do not worship your parents

(ii) Do not be a mama's boy

1. Be a Jesus boy

iii) Next comes right action

(1) Again if you are still in the authority of your

parents

(a) Obedience

i) Exposition

(1) Look at verse 51,

(2) 51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection (or obedience) to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

(a) Jesus as the perfect child

(i) Was obedient to his parents

(ii) However they are exceptions

(iii) And this is where we come to the exception

1. That I said I would come back to earlier

(b) *Obey your parents unless obeying them would require you to sin or dishonor God (repeat)*

j) Application

i) I feel that every culture

(1) has easier

(2) and harder parts within its culture to obey God

ii) For example

(1) I believe for those growing up in Western societies

(a) this part of honoring our parents by putting God above them

(b) is easier

(2) It's like we can't wait

(a) to defy our parents for the Lord

(3) But at the same time

(a) Western cultures tend to be quite weak

(b) in honoring their parents

(c) sending off parents to some nursing home when they got old

(d) leaving them lonely

iii) On the other hand for Filipinos

- (1) honoring parents is probably the easier part
- (2) it's taught to every Filipino as a child
- (3) it is ingrained in the culture
- (4) But I think the challenge for Filipinos
 - (a) is to put God above our parents
 - (b) It can be very easy for Filipinos to put family above God

iv) If your parent is telling you

- (1) not to go to share your faith with someone
- (2) or not to go to church
- (3) you do as Peter and the apostles did in
 - (a) Acts 5:29, 'But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.'

v) If your parents

- (1) are pushing you to a path

- (2) maybe a career path
- (3) and you know that it is completely opposite
- (4) to what God is calling you to
- (5) you obey God rather than man

vi) Because true honoring of our parents

- (1) means we honor our ultimate parent
- (2) God
- (3) above our earthly parents

vii) And that is why we honor our parents

- (1) because it gives glory to God

3) Conclusion

a) The very next day of meeting Pacquiao

i) I went on to watch his match against Cotto

ii) It was at the 12th round

iii) when Manny

iv)having dominated the whole fight

v) ended the fight in a TKO.

b) He was given the honor of Cotto's belt

i) the welterweight title

ii) and at the time the first to win

iii)seven titles in seven weight divisions

c) As we all know

d) today, Pacquiao went on to be the only fighter in history

to win

i) twelve titles in eight divisions

e) As Filipinos we have given Manny

i) so much honor

ii) for his representation of the Philippines

f) But ultimately

i) as Christians

ii) we honor God

iii) and give glory to him

iv) by giving every worthy title

v) every crown

vi) by honoring our parents

vii) As we honor our parents

viii) and are blessed by God's promises

ix) we honor and glorify our ultimate parent,

(1) God

4) Gospel

a) If you are hearing this today

i) I want to make clear

ii) That God's command to honor your parents

iii) Is not a path of salvation

b) No the opposite

i) God's command to honor your parents

(1) Is to show us

(2) Our failure to obey his commands completely

c) If you listened to this today

i) And rather than be humbled

ii) Became proud and thought

(1) 'Honor your parents, ha!

(2) I already got that one done, next!'

iii) You are in for a rude awakening

d) No one has honored their parents perfectly

i) We have all either completely disrespected our parents

(1) At some point in our life

ii) Or worshipped them

iii) Dishonoring our ultimate parent

(1) God

e) And that is sin

f) There is only one who honored his parents perfectly

i) Jesus

g) He came as God in the flesh because we have all sinned by
not honoring our parents perfectly

h) To live a perfect life and fulfill all the commandments for
us

i) So that when he died on the cross

i) He was able to offer his life to all who would believe in
him

ii) Paying in full the sins of those who believe

iii) And also giving those who believe his righteousness

iv) So that they may have eternal life

j) God offers you this eternal life as a free gift today

i) So that you may escape his wrath against sin

ii) All you have to do is put your faith in Christ

(1) And what he did on the cross

(2) Rose again from the dead

(3) For you

(4) And you will be saved

iii) Let's pray