

Honor Your Father & Mother: The Role of the Children

Is Mother's Day just another "Hallmark Holiday" foisted on guilt-ridden sons and daughters? Is it simply a consumer-oriented event designed to sell flowers, jewelry, and greeting cards? Is Father's Day just an excuse for a backyard barbecue?

What is the role of the children in the family? Does the command to honor father and mother only apply to children living at home? How do you honor difficult parents? What does Scripture say?

PRINCIPLE

Exodus 20:12a - "Honor your father and your mother,

Deuteronomy 5:16a - " 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you,

REWARD

Exodus 20:12b - "... that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16b - "... that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

CONSEQUENCES FOR DISOBEDIENCE

Deuteronomy 21:18–21 - ¹⁸ "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, ¹⁹ then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, ²⁰ and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' ²¹ Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Ezekiel 22:7, 15 - ⁷ Father and mother are treated with contempt in you...¹⁵ I will scatter you among the nations and disperse you through the countries, and I will consume your uncleanness out of you.

(See all Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 27:16; Proverbs 20:20; 30:17)

☐ HOW TO HONOR FATHER & MOTHER

- **In the Growing Years = Obedience**

Ephesians 6:1–3 - ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Colossians 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

- **In the Mature Years = Respect**

Leviticus 19:3, 32 - ³ Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God...³² “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

- **In the Mature Years = Provision**

Matthew 15:3–6 - ³ He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ⁵ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” ⁶ he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8, 16 - ³ Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.... ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.... ¹⁶ If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

- **In the Mature Years = Character Development**

Proverbs 23:24–25 - ²⁴ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. ²⁵ Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

How can we honor our father and mother?

In the growing years, be obedient.

In the mature years, communicate respect, ensure their needs are met, develop godly character.

Enjoy a long and abundant life.