



## Honoring our Parents Pt1: Esteeming Women and Mothers

Happy Mother's Day!

May 12, 2019

### **Text: Ephesians 6:1-3**

- *Exodus 20:12 (KJV) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
- *Deuteronomy 5:16 (KJV) Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

### **Ephesian 6:1-3**

1. The Epistle to the Ephesians is one of the most beautiful and theologically complete letters written by the Apostle Paul.
2. The first three chapters are **indicatives**. Paul made sure the Ephesian church understood their relationship to Christ: who He is, what He did, and what His work meant for them, particularly as it relates to the magnificent grace they received.
3. Perhaps the most well-known text in the first 3 chapters is found in chapter 2:  
*Ephesians 2:4-10 (KJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
4. The last three chapters are almost all **imperatives**: practical commands and instructions for the Christian home and church, based firmly but lovingly in the Gospel.
5. In this context, we find our text. Beginning in chapter 4, Paul issues much needed instructions, including how the church might be more unified in Christ, how to fight against sin and be holy, defining what being filled with the spirit looks like in practice, and how families should conduct themselves.
6. After carefully teaching about marriage in chapter five, Paul also reminds the church that God's commandment for children to **honor** parents still in effect.
7. The word "obey" in v6:1 means *to hear under (as a subordinate), that is, to listen attentively; by implication to heed or conform to a command or authority: - hearken, be obedient to, obey.*<sup>1</sup>
8. The word "right" can also be translated "righteous or just." In other words, the obedience called for is not just culturally "right" or "conveniently" right but is "**creationally**" right and points to how we should treat God.
9. This sort of honor promotes  **blessing...things "going well for longer."** Why?

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<sup>1</sup> Strong's

- Because our parents typically know more than we do and their wisdom would help us.
  - Because such honor would lessen sin and consequently the debilitating effects of sin on us....which would increase life and prosperity.
  - Because to honor parents is to honor the God who gave the command.
10. Honoring parents being “the first commandment with a promise” suggests how important this command is to home, church, and even society at large. It is also the place of the first **temptations**.

### **The Principle of Honor**

1. In Ephesians 6:2, the word for honor in Greek is timao<sup>2</sup> : to *prize*, that is, *fix a valuation* upon; by implication to *revere*.<sup>2</sup>
2. Another definition is “to *revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission, and perform relative duties to.*”<sup>3</sup>
3. As we said, the promises of honor are prolonged days and a more blessed life! God values and blesses our obedience to esteem!
4. Again, the giving of honor is not based on performance; honor is based in intrinsic value.
5. Consider the wide-ranging implications of a lack of honor...between husband and wives, parents and children, citizens and civil authority, and brothers and sisters in the church!
6. The church has always known how important this command is. For example, the Westminster Shorter Catechism says:

Q. 63. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongeth to everyone in their several places and relations.

Q. 66. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is, a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God’s glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

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<sup>2</sup> Strong’s

<sup>3</sup> Webster 1828 Dictionary

- I wrote in Playbook:

*So based on the commandments, lawful love towards others has a basic framework. First, we must strive to honor our parents (fifth commandment). To honor parents is to show them reverence, respect, and deference. This is more than just saying, "I love you." Remember, love has teeth! It is to obey them when under their covering and to maintain a submissive posture even as adults. It is to speak well of them, speak respectfully to them, and to refuse to allow dishonor concerning them. God was so serious about the hearts of the parents and children remaining connected through this sort of honor, He said, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you." In the New Testament He says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.'" (Ex 20:12; Eph 6:1-3) In other words, circumstantial blessings and length of life was tied to honoring parents! This is one way we love them lawfully. Honoring parents teaches the children to be honorable themselves. I have yet to see a fruit-bearing home without honor towards mom and dad.<sup>4</sup>*

- In our day, with the widespread rejection of basic honor and so much confusion concerning manhood and womanhood, the need to understand and embrace this text is great!

### **Esteeming Women and Mothers: Three truths to help us raise our Honor:**

1. She was **made** in honor.

- We see this clearly at creation. Woman's creation was in response to an honorable need...

*Genesis 2:18-25 (KJV) **And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.** 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; **but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.** 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

*Genesis 3:20 (KJV) And Adam called his wife's name **Eve**; because she was the mother of all living.*

- "Eve" in Hebrew is Chavvâh. It means "life or life-giver."

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<sup>4</sup> *The Playbook*, Carlton McLeod, p. 14.

- By God's perfect design, Adam would need "help" taking dominion (Gen 1:26-28) and bringing life into the world.
- "Man cannot take dominion without Woman! From the garden of Eden, Woman was not created in isolation, or independently, *but she was taken from man*. Indeed, so precious is Woman, Scripture unfolds a lifetime of care for her. From birth to gray hair, God commands her protection and provision." *This is one reason why the office of wife and mother is (such a high calling). This is the reason why nations that fear the Lord esteem and protect mothers. They glory in the distinctions between men and women, and attempt to build cultures in which motherhood is honored and protected.*"
- "Only women can be mothers. Have we forgotten this fundamental? Only a woman can carry in her body an eternal being which bears the very image of God. Only she is the recipient of the miracle of life. Only a woman can conceive and nurture this life using her own flesh and blood, and then deliver a living soul into the world. God has bestowed upon her alone a genuine miracle — the creation of life, and the fusing of an eternal soul with mortal flesh. This fact alone establishes the glory of motherhood." -NCFIC article

## 2. She should be **practically** honored. How?

- First, women are to be approached with propriety and treated with care.
  - 1 Peter 3:7 (KJV) Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*
  - Ephesians 5:25-29 (KJV) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*
- Also, children should strive to apply Scripture both to honor God and their parents...
  - Proverbs 6:20 (KJV) My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*
  - Proverbs 10:1 (KJV) The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.*
  - Proverbs 19:26 (NLT) Children who mistreat their father or chase away their mother are an embarrassment and a public disgrace.*
  - Proverbs 29:15 (NLT) To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.*
- Next, women should be honored by being cared for.
  - 1 Timothy 5:1-8 (KJV) Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. 3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. 5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. 6 But she that*

*liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. 7 And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. 8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

- Finally, consider the example of Jesus. Even on the cross, our LORD's love for His mother was on full display.

*John 19:25-27 (KJV) Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*

3. She **shall** be honored...as a joint heir in Christ at the last day.
  - Again, 1 Peter 3:7 teaches us that our sisters are “heirs together” or joint heirs in Christ.
  - As it relates to salvation, *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28 (KJV)*
  - Our heavenly Father loves His daughters as He loves His sons.
  - Sisters, know that in the Kingdom, women and mothers are not second class citizens. On the contrary, your role is critical.
  - We’ve said previously that “women are precious to God! “After woman’s creation, God was finished! Woman is the last thing God made. She is the best and brightest stone on the crown of creation, the finishing touch in the mind of God, and designed by God to be a beautifying “corner pillar” fit for a palace.” (Ps 144:12)

### **Some final reminders:**

- My friend Scott Brown wrote:

*“The world needs Christ loving, husband helping, home making, dominion taking, kingdom making women. The Bible not only teaches women to be possessors of gentle and quiet spirits, it also teaches them to exercise their God-given wisdom and strength. They are vigorous and strong and distinctively feminine. They are supremely secure and are not frightened by any fear. They are brimming with confidence in the future and are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. They are happy because they fear the Lord and love His ways. Their worth is far above rubies, and they bring gain to their households. They are girded with strength and their clothing is of fine linen. The law of kindness is upon their lips. They do their husbands good all the days of their lives. They are “pillars sculptured in palace style” (Ps 144:12) with adornments that radiate the beauty of Christ and diffuse the fragrance of the aroma of Christ in every place.”*

- “Satan works to mar and disfigure everything that God created. His desire is to make the beautiful ugly and the ugly seem beautiful. Nowhere is this more apparent than among women. I submit to you that a woman, especially a Christian woman is:

1. **Beautiful** in her role as a daughter of Christ, reflecting our Lord’s tenderness and care, His patience and tenacity, His submission to and love for His Father.
2. **Beautiful** in her role as an unmarried servant of the Kingdom, making the mission of her family and the church her priority until she weds.
3. **Beautiful** in her role as wife and mother, taking up her role in the picture of Christ and His church (Eph 5), exalted in her role as the submitted bride.
4. **Beautiful** in her role as a mentor and discipler of children, pouring daily and exhaustingly into her progeny day after day, crying aloud for them in the secret place as only a mother can.
5. **Beautiful** when she models modesty, rejecting the examples of the world and witnessing to all of creation the Christian virtues of propriety, meekness, and humility.”<sup>5</sup>

#### **Practical Suggestions for Increasing Honor:**

1. Speak **kindly** and **tenderly** to women; consider the use of proper honorifics: “Mother,” “Grandmother,” “Sister,” “Ma’am,” etc.
2. Remember **special** days: birthdays, anniversaries, Mother’s Day, etc.
3. Approach/look upon them with **purity** and **propriety** and with wisdom. Protect their **modesty**. This can be challenging in our day, but let us not imitate the world!
4. Embrace God’s call for **protection** and **provision**. Again, a challenge in our day but God’s Word stands (Eph 5:25; 1 Tim 5:8).
5. In the right context, **guide** them. Husbands, teach your wives. (1 Cor 14:35) Fathers, teach your daughters. (Eph 6:4) Older women, teach the younger. (Titus 2:4) These things promote honor.

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<sup>5</sup> A Return to Headcovering, Carlton McLeod, p. 69.