

Lesson 1



The Foundation for Mothers of Teens by Linda Minnick

Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

~ Titus 2:3-5

The Purpose of Our Class

1. Fitting Sound Doctrine

*The Grand Goal of this class is to teach and encourage you to adjust your conducts so that your lives and the lives of your children **fit sound doctrine, honor the Word of God, and adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.***

2. Mentoring One Another

3. Learning to be a Mother of Teens in the Present Age

*There is a way to fit sound doctrine, to honor the Word of God, to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect, **even in our day.***

The Foundation: The Fifth Commandment
HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. ~ Ephesians 6:2-3

~ **A Specific Application**

The commandment to honor parents is foundational to “parenting” and sets before us a summation of the goal of our life-long relationship with our children.

~ **The Magnitude of Its Importance**

There is never, ever, any circumstance where any of your children are ever justified in DISHONORING any of you their mothers, or your husbands, their fathers. NO EXCEPTIONS!

~ **The Meaning of Honoring**

Defined: to give weight to or highly value

Honoring God

- Upholding His Holy Name (Malachi 2:2; Matthew 6:9)
- Proclaiming His glorious attributes (I Timothy 6:16)
- Calling attention to His marvelous creation (Revelation 4:11)
- Keeping His commandments (Romans 2:23)
- Living lives that honor His Word! (Titus 2:5)

Honoring Parents: Giving weight to YOUR words

-see handout: “From the Book of Wisdom”

YOUR CHILDREN HONOR YOU BY GIVING WEIGHT AND VALUE TO YOUR WORDS AND FOLLOWING IN YOUR WAYS!

The Application

**1. Where does the Principle of Honor Apply?
In matters of WISDOM and DISCERNMENT!**
Train your children in WISDOM and DISCERNMENT so that they are equipped to live “Sensibly, Righteously, and Godly in this present age” and thus “Adorn the Doctrine of God Our Savior in Every Respect!”

**2. Why is the Principle of Honor Important?
Because of the PROMISE!**
HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. ~ Eph. 6:2-3
-see handout: “From the Book of Wisdom”

- ~ Objections**
- counter cultural
 - fear of controlling



3. How is the Principle of Honor Applied? By asking for the HEART!

-see handout: *"From the Book of Wisdom"*

~ Losing the HEART

-losing the HEART through Neglect

-losing the HEART to the Other Voices

1 John 2:15-17, *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

-losing the HEART by Provoking

Ephesians 6:4, *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

~ Gaining the HEART

-gaining the HEART through good communication

Proverbs 31:26, *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

In the original context the following quote was John Wesley's thoughts upon how he, as a teacher of God's Word, should be open to correction. In your case hear these words as coming from the heart of your child who is open for correction.

On Being Open to Correction

...Are you persuaded you see more clearly than me? It is not unlikely that you may. Then treat me as you would desire to be treated yourself upon a change of circumstances. Point me out a better way than I have yet known. Show me it is so by plain proof of Scripture. And if I linger in the path I have been accustomed to tread, and am therefore unwilling to leave it, labor with me a little; take me by the hand, and lead me as I am able to bear. But be not displeased if I entreat you not to beat me down in order to quicken my pace: I can go but feebly and slowly at best; then, I should not be able to go at all. May I not request of you, further, not to give me hard names in ordeal to bring me into the right way. Suppose I were ever so much in the wrong, I doubt this would not set me right. Rather, it would make me run so much the farther from you, and so get more and more out of the way.

Nay, perhaps, if you are angry, so shall I be too; and then there will be small hopes of finding the truth. If once anger arise, *ηυτε καπνος*, (as Homer somewhere expresses it,) this smoke will so dim the eyes of my soul, that I shall be able to see nothing clearly. For God's sake, if it be possible to avoid it, **let us not provoke one another to wrath**. Let us not kindle in each other this fire of hell; much less blow it up into a flame. If we could discern truth by that dreadful light, would it not be loss, rather than gain? For, how far is love, even with many wrong opinions, to be preferred before truth itself without love! We may die without the knowledge of many truths, and yet be carried into Abraham's bosom. But, if we die without love, what will knowledge avail? Just as much as it avails the devil and his angels! ~ John Wesley

-gaining the HEART through Prayer

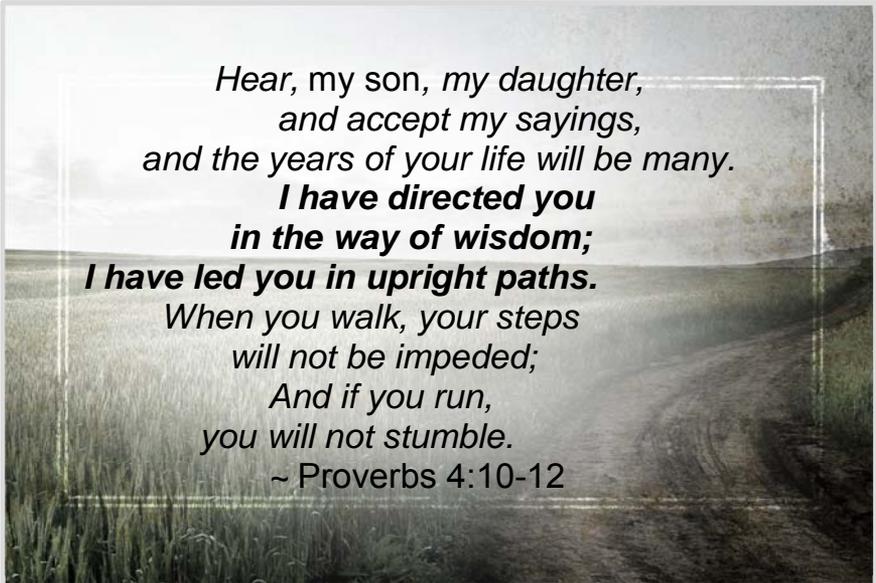
-gaining the HEART through “discipline and Instruction of the Lord”

Ephesians 6:4, *Fathers,...bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

Our Responsibility

Can you say:

“My son, my daughter, ***I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction.***” ~ Proverbs 4:2



The Importance of the Fifth Commandment: “Honor Your Father and Your Mother”

Deuteronomy 5:16, *“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

Ephesians 6:2-3, *HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.*

God’s Will: the Fifth Commandment

The Ten Commandments are an expression of God’s Will. It is His WILL that we HONOR our fathers and mothers.

Exodus 20:12, *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

The Hebrew word for HONOR means “weighty” or to place a lot of importance on something.

The Greek word for HONOR means to “highly value” or prize something

Like all the Ten Commandments the commandment to HONOR Father and Mother is:

1. Universal—it is to be practiced by EVERYONE
2. Unconditional—it is to be applied to EVERY father and mother
3. Eternal—it extends throughout ALL generations
4. It is to be observed throughout the duration of YOUR life

The Unique Characteristics of the Fifth Commandment

The Ten Commandments are in two sections. The first four have to do with our relationship to God; the other six concern our relationship with other people. Consider how the following unique characteristics heighten the importance of the Fifth Commandment.

1. **Placement:** Being first in the list of people relationships gives it a position of importance. They are all important but it is significant that it is first. If you were making the list, would you have listed this one ahead of “murder” and “adultery?”
2. **Specific:** It is concerning two very specific people, father and mother, whereas all the others are to be applied to people in general. And, of all the specific relationships He could have focused on, He didn't mention our husbands, our children, etc. He focused on this one relationship...Honor **your parents**.
3. **Promise:** According to Ephesians 6:2 it is the first commandment with a promise and in this list the only one.

Ephesians 6:2-3, *HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.*

Deuteronomy 5:16, *Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, 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.*

Also note that the version of the promise in Eph. 6 has been altered from the version in the Old Testament to fit the people to whom it is addressed—the New Testament Church instead of the nation Israel.

How strongly does God feel about this commandment?

1. He put a curse on those who disobey this commandment.

Deuteronomy 27:11, 16

Moses also charged the people on that day, saying,...

(he begins a list of things God curses. The first is making idols. The second is...)

Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother. And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

2. He said to disobey is worthy of death.

There are 16 things in the law that required the death penalty. They include...

Exodus 21:15, *He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.*

Exodus 21:17, *He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.*

Other grave warnings are found in:

Proverbs 20:20, *He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness.*



Proverbs 30:11-14, 17

There is a kind of man who curses his father and does not bless his mother (Prov. 31).

There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, yet is not washed from his filthiness.

Self-deceived

There is a kind—oh how lofty are his eyes! And his eyelids are raised in arrogance.

Proud

There is a kind of man whose teeth are like swords and his jaw teeth like knives, to devour the afflicted from the earth and the needy from among men.

Malicious speech

The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.

Jesus reinforces the gravity of the Old Testament Law when speaking to Pharisees who claimed to be righteous toward their parents but were not.

Matthew 15:4, *For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'*

Jesus internalized these commandments and said if even our feelings, attitudes, or thoughts are in this direction, we have committed sin the same as if we had actually done it.

3. He labels the one who dishonors his father or mother 'a fool.'

Proverbs 10:1, *A wise son makes a father glad, but a **foolish son (daughter)** is a grief to his (her) mother.*

Proverbs 15:20, *A wise son makes a father glad, but a **foolish man** despises his mother.*

Proverbs 17:25, *A **foolish son** is a grief to his father and is bitterness to her who bore him.*

Proverbs 17:25, *A **foolish son** is a grief to his father...*

Proverbs 15:5, *A **fool** rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is sensible.*

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. If we don't have enough fear of the Lord to obey the fifth commandment, we are not wise, we don't even have the "beginning of wisdom." (i.e., we are fools.)

Conclusion:

Leviticus 19:1-3, *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy....*

How can they be Holy?

***Every one of you** shall reverence his mother and his father,...I am the LORD your God.*

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