

February 10, 2019



Exodus 20:12

SERMON SUMMARY

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Exodus 20:12

Honor Your Father and Mother

Why this is important

- This command is the first that tells us how to deal with our horizontal relationships (relationships with others); the previous four dealt with our vertical relationship with God.
- This command is foundational to the remaining six commands—how we learn to honor our parents in our family unit affects how we will treat others in our lives.
- How you relate to those in your family, specifically the parent/child relationship, will affect all your relationships as you grow up.
- You learned about your relationship with God from your relationship with your parents, and your kids are learning about God through their relationship with you.
- When our kids obey and honor their parents, they learn to obey and honor the God behind their parents. When kids disobey their parents, they are learning to disobey the God behind their parents.

The Command: “Honor your father and mother...”

- The Hebrew word for “honor” means “weighty” or “heavy”. To honor our parents is to give them the weight, significance, or value due their position. To honor is to not think of our parents lightly.
 - John Calvin said, “To honor your parents is to give them reverence, obedience, and gratitude.”

The Promise: “...that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”

- This command isn’t just to benefit individuals; it’s for the entire community. God is telling Israel that if they honor their parents, their community and nation will thrive.
- In Exodus 21, Moses says that rebelling against parents is punishable by death because it was a public crime—when the family unit diminishes, society diminishes.

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Ask Yourself

Do my parents know they are significant to me?

- As a child, this looks like obedience. But God's authority is always above all earthly authorities.
- As adults, this looks like thanking them, seeking their wisdom, speaking well of them, spending time with them, talking with them, etc

Remind Yourself

- *I will never outgrow this command*
 - When our parents become elderly, their children are to care for them. This requires sacrifice and love despite exhaustion
 - Parents are not a burden to bear or an annoyance to endure

Remember: The honoring of our parents honors God

DISCUSSION

Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
- Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?** Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.

RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

QUESTIONS

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!

Possible opening

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I don't know all the details of your family and how your relationship with your parents is (was). But in Acts 17:26-27, Paul says that God in his wisdom specifically chose the time and place you would live, so that you'd seek Him. If He chose your exact time and place, He also chose your family. So today, he has called you to be a child of your parents, and is asking for your obedience in honoring them. Because the way you honor them shows that you love Him, who is the God behind them. If you want to talk about your relationship with your parents with someone, I'm available to listen!

Getting to know you

- What feelings come up when you hear the command to honor your parents?
- Our relationship with our parents can affect the way we view and interact with God. Have you seen this to be true in your life? How have you seen your relationship with God be related to or be impacted by your relationship with your parents?
 - *Ex. Well-known atheists have strained relationships with their fathers*
 - *Ex. Maybe it's difficult for you to see God as a Father who loves unconditionally because you haven't experienced that much from your earthly father*

Into the Bible

- **Read Exodus 20:12.** What does it mean to "honor" our parents?
 - *To give weight, significance, value, etc to*
- **Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21.** Why does God take so seriously the offense of disobeying or not honoring our parents?
 - *When the family unit decays, society decays*
 - *The way we view and interact with those in our family unit impacts the way we view and interact with others*
 - *The call to obey our parents should transfer to the way we obey God*

Application

- For your stage of life, what does it look like to honor your parents?
 - *As a child, this looks like obedience*
 - *As adults, this looks like thanking them, seeking their wisdom, speaking well of them, spending time with them, talking with them, etc*
 - *If they're elderly, this looks like caring sacrificially for them*
 - *If they've passed away, this looks like speaking well of them*
- When have you found it difficult to honor your parents? Think of specific examples.
- What can you do or remember when it's difficult to honor your parents?
 - *Pray for your heart to see your parents the way God does*
 - *Remember the hard work and sacrifices they made to raise you, have a grateful attitude*
 - *Pray for your parents*
 - *Ask for God's wisdom in how to honor them in difficult situations (John 14:16-17)*
 - *Etc*
- **Read John 14:15-21 and John 15:9-10.** What does honoring our parents (obeying this command) show about our relationship with God?

For parents

- What have your children been learning about God from their relationship with you?
- Think of specific examples: through your relationship with your kids, how can you practically teach them about their relationship with God or who God is?

PRAY

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Thank God for being your loving, gracious, and forgiving eternal Father

Thank God for the parents He chose to give to you. Pray for them to either come to know Jesus personally or that they would continue to follow Jesus.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the ways you may not be giving significance to your parents. Ask Him to change your heart if honoring your parents is something that's difficult to do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College students

See you at **Epic on Thursday night** at 7:30pm at MU109 → room change! Josh & Christina Yun (OSU Epic '16) will be sharing about dating, marriage, and doing it all with Jesus in mind. This a great night to invite a friend, especially someone who hasn't been to Epic before!

The **Epic Game Show** is this Friday at 7pm at the Grant gym! Come with your friends for four different game shows, snacks, and prizes. If you need a ride, contact Elena Chin.

All church

Sign up for the Peru Mountains mission trip, happening April 20-28. If you are interested or have questions, contact Doug Boddy at 541-223-3484 or visit grantavebc.org/missions.

Baptism Sunday is on March 10. If you are interested in being baptized or have questions, contact Pastor Bryan or Pastor Don or write it on your communication card on Sunday.

Vacation Bible School is happening July 8-12! If you want to volunteer to help with teaching, crafts, snacks, music, or anything else, contact Carrie Bernard at carrie@grantavebc.org.

Women

Missed the **Secret Sister Reveal Party** last week? Let Betty Ricklefs or the church office know by this Friday, February 15 if you want to participate.

Men

The next **Men's Fellowship** will be this Tuesday, February 12 at 8pm in the Welcome Center. They'll be discussing Your Work Matters to God by Doug Sherman and William Hendrick. There will be donuts!

Senior adults

The next **lunch outing** is this Thursday, February 14 at Elmer's in Corvallis. Please meet at the restaurant at 12:30pm.