

**RESPECT FOR PARENTS  
MOTHER'S DAY 2010  
EXODUS 20:12**

**RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY**

1. The Bible addresses the key for stability in society as **reverence** of, and respect for, **parental** authority.
2. The promise attached to this commandment is primarily related to **Israel's** life in the Promised Land.

**I. ACCEPTING THEIR TRAINING (HEBREWS 12:9)**

- A. Respect of God is demonstrated by your **obedience** to His will and His commandments.
- B. Your parents are a **gift** from your Heavenly Father to **train** you in obedience to Him (Heb. 12:9-11).
- C. Your outward expression should always be one of **respect** and reverence toward your parents (Lev. 19:1-3).

**KEY THOUGHT:** If your **attitude** is one of reverence, your **action** will be one of honor.

**II. FOLLOWING THEIR DIRECTIONS (EPHESIANS 6:1-3)**

- A. **Obey** the **lawful** commands of your parents (Eph. 6:1).
- B. Your obedience to your parents is **unto** the **Lord** and is blessed with a promise (Eph. 6:2-3).
- C. **Rebellious** children were seen as a **plague** on the land and were dealt with harshly (Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Prov. 20:20).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Obedience is **precious** in God's sight (Matt. 21:28-31a).

### III. COMFORTING THEM AS THEY AGE (MATTHEW 15:4-6)

- A. Find ways to care for your parents and not neglect them.
- B. Maintain them if they need support.
- C. Obedient and caring children keep God's commandment in spirit and in action (Ex. 20:12).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Respect and revere your parents to honor God, and you will reap His blessing upon your life (Ex. 20:12).

### RESPECTING AND REVERING MY PARENTS

- I am living at home, so I can respect and revere my parents by...
  - Following the rules and boundaries they have established.
  - Asking them for advice, counsel, and consent in my decisions and actions.
- I am living independent of my parents, so I can show my respect and revere my parents by...
  - Being sure my parents have what is necessary for their comfort.
  - Comforting them that their future needs will be provided.
- I agree God is honored when His original authority figures in our lives are respected and revered (Ex. 20:12).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**May 9, 2010**

**SUNDAY:** ***Your parents are a gift from your Heavenly Father (Heb. 12:9-11)!*** You show respect for the Lord God when you obey His Word. The passage in Hebrews 12:6-11 speaks of the wisdom that is gained from the chastening of the Lord for His children. This divine discipline is illustrated by the guidance and correction provided by one's earthly father and mother. Tutoring provided by parents is not simply to improve the quality of your life, but to train you to see the wisdom of obeying those more knowledgeable and experienced than you. Ultimately, this training is to condition and prepare your heart for a lifetime of instruction and correction by your Heavenly Father. Do you listen to your parents? Have you been conditioned and taught to listen to the Lord through His Word and the Holy Spirit? Pray for a more open spirit to the Lord's leadership in your life. ***May the knowledge that parents and other spiritual guides are a blessing inspire you to utilize them more often!***

**MONDAY:** ***Your actions towards your parents are always to be respectful (Lev. 19:1-3)!*** Moses is speaking about Israel being holy in its conduct because their God is holy. Moses then provides some examples of holy conduct. The first is to revere your parents, and the second is to keep the Sabbath. Placing reverence for your parents in the same sentence as keeping the Sabbath emphasizes its importance. The intentional use of the term "revere" is to elevate the level of respect that is to be shown your parents. This great level of respect is an attitude that will allow you to live the action of honoring them. How can you communicate your tremendous love and respect for your parents? How will your attitude of reverence make it easier for you to honor your parents? Pray for the Holy Spirit to remind you to intentionally revere your parents. Ask for this attitude to influence your actions towards them as a witness to your God. ***May this growing reverence for your parents be seen by others as a great reflection on your Lord!***

**TUESDAY:** ***Follow the directions of your parents as God's agents of care (Eph. 6:1-3)!*** You are to view your parents as God's representatives to train and mature you. A key portion of your training is learning that you are dependent on those more knowledgeable than you, specifically the Lord God. Obedience toward the wishes of your parents is to be as unto the Lord Himself. The honor indicated in verse 2 is the attitude that provides the motive to revere your parents. Paul bases his comment on the fifth commandment which addresses relationships within the building block of society, the family. Have you cultivated the attitude that your parents are direct agents from the Lord? Are you willing to agree that the obedience you show your parents is truly "money in the bank" in developing your relationship with the Lord? Ask the Lord to help you think less of your own opinion and more highly of God's provision for you. Thank the Lord for His gift of your parents. ***May your growing understanding of God's provision for your maturation bring you to agree with Him to revere your parents!***

**WEDNESDAY:** ***Rebellious children were seen as a plague on society (Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Prov. 20:20).*** Children who were disrespectful to their parents were severely disciplined by the leaders in the community. Leaders would discipline children for disobeying their parents, talking back to them, or other behaviors that would be considered consistent with being a juvenile delinquent. If the child or young person seemed incorrigible, the leaders of the

community might very well have them stoned to death. This was to be a deterrent to other misbehaving, disrespectful youth and/or to rid their society of a bad seed. How do you think God sees behavior that is disrespectful to one's parents? In light of this information, how serious do you think the consequences should be for behavior that is disrespectful to one's parents? Ask the Lord to bring great conviction to your heart when you sin in this egregious way. Make a decision to honor your parents as a way to worship the Lord. ***May your respect for your parents be a clear demonstration of your love for the Lord!***

**THURSDAY: Obedience is precious in the sight of the Lord (Matt. 21:28-31)!** Ultimately, it is not your intentions that count, but your actions. This parable illustrates that the first son had a bad attitude that was later corrected. Once his attitude was in line with scripture, his behavior then followed. The second son had a hidden attitude. His attitude was revealed through his rebellious behavior. Jesus went on to say that those who truly loved God with their hearts and actions would be saved. Obedience to divine truth is precious in the sight of the Lord! What areas have you been disobedient to your parents? How can you change certain attitudes and behaviors to show greater respect for your parents? Make a list of attitudes towards the Lord and/or your parents that would show true love and worship of the Lord. Ask the Lord to convict you of sinful and ungodly attitudes that have led to ungodly behavior. Seek His wisdom to recognize the temptation and His strength to resist it. ***May your love for the Lord cultivate an obedient attitude that leads to respectful behavior towards your parents!***

**FRIDAY: Your care for aging parents is a tremendous opportunity to show your love for them and the Lord (Matt. 15:3-6)!** Jesus was highlighting that many were not caring for their parents in the needs of their old age. In fact, these uncaring children would only use their parents as a way to obfuscate around the tithe laws of the Temple. Your parents were given to you as a gift to care for you and raise you to serve the Lord. The loving, sacrificial care and financial comfort you provide your parents in their latter years are a tremendous witness to your love for the Lord. What plans are you making to care for your parents as they grow older? What sacrifices are you planning on making to insure they are comforted and cared for as long as they live? Ask the Lord to help you clarify your responsibilities to your parents and your desired provision for your children. ***May your struggle with these issues lead you to a greater dependence on the Lord today and every day in the future!***

**SATURDAY: Obedient and caring children revere their parents and keep God's commandment (Exodus 20:12)!** The Lord expects your honor of your parents to translate into honor of Him. Revering your parents implies obedience and submission to them (Eph. 6:1-2). The Lord does offer an incentive to honor your parents with a promise to make your days and your nation's days be long upon the earth (20:12). Disobedient children will be punished by their parents and the Lord. How are you going to pass on this truth to your children and grandchildren? After a week of study, what is the first and most obvious thing you must adjust in your life? Pray for the stamina to make the needed adjustments towards your parents and towards your children. ***May the study of this key passage from the Ten Commandments bring lasting change in your life and ministry!***