

OBEDY AND HONOR YOUR PARENTS

Your first verses this month are Ephesians 6:1-2, which are spoken to *children!* You may not like to think of yourself as a child anymore, but the fact is that as long as you are at home with your parents and are dependent on them to supply your needs, you need to **obey** your parents.

The command to honor your parents was first given in the 10 commandments during the time of Moses. So you see, this command was given under the Old Covenant, but has also been given as a part of the New Covenant which is in force today. Ephesians 6:1-3 gives a promise to those who honor their parents; a long enjoyable life here on earth!

There is a difference between obeying and honoring. To obey means to do as you are told; to honor means to respect and love. Children are not commanded to disobey God in order to obey their parents. Our loyalty to God always comes first, but most of you do not have parents who will ask you to do sinful things. Adult children are not asked to cater to the whims of domineering parents; but the command to honor our parents lasts as long as we and our parents live.

True faith in Christ, if real, it will usually prove itself at home in our relationships with those who know us best. Children should honor their parents even if the parents are demanding and unfair. Parents should love gently for their children, even if the children are disobedient and unpleasant. The goal to work for is for Christian parents and Christian children to relate to each other with thoughtfulness and love. This will happen if both parents and children will put the others' interests above their own – submitting to one another in love. The purpose for parents to discipline their children is to help children *grow* – not to irritate them or make them angry or discouraged.

Being a parent is not easy. It takes **lots** of patience to raise children in a loving way that honors Christ. Every parent will sometimes make a mistake in disciplining their children. When this happens, you need to forgive them, remembering that here on earth no one is perfect; not even the *best* parent or child!

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QUESTIONS

Finish the following sentences by placing the letter of the proper ending in the blank at the end of each beginning sentence.

PART I

BEGINNINGS

1. Why should we obey our parents? _____
2. When we obey our parents, we are being _____
3. The first commandment with a promise _____
4. The first part of the promise _____
5. The second part of the promise _____
6. If our faith in Christ is real, _____
7. To honor our parents means _____

ENDINGS

- a. that you may enjoy long life on earth.
- b. Honor your father and mother.
- c. to respect and love them.
- d. obedient to the Lord.
- e. it will usually prove itself at home.
- f. that it may go well with you.
- g. It is the right thing to do.

PART II

Luke 2:51 tells us that Jesus was obedient to His parents when He was growing up. Obeying your parents, you are following Jesus' example. Share one thing that you want to change to become more obedient and to honor your parents.

Personal Question: How does honoring and respecting our parents, prepare us to respond to God and other people in positions of authority?

MEMORY VERSE

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right.
Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise.

Ephesians 6:1-2