

# Honor Your Parents

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

## Introduction: Loving Our Aging Parents

- I. Decision #1: To honor my parents I will \_\_\_\_\_, when possible
- *“Honor your father and mother.” Exodus 20:12*
  - *“If anyone does not provide for his own relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8*
- A. Jesus’ Example
- *“When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, ‘Dear woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home” John 19:26*
- B. Jesus’ Teaching
- *“Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12*
- C. Don’t treat your parents like they are old...before they become old!
- D. When they do, don’t miss the opportunity to give back, to repay our parents.
- *“The church should care for any widow who has no one else to care for her. But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God very much.” 1 Timothy 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_*
- II. Decision #2: The decision to accept change. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- A. Reality
- *“I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” John 21:18*
- B. The pain of losing \_\_\_\_\_
- *“Always be joyful. Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens. This is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*
  - Release \_\_\_\_\_ to God
  - Release your \_\_\_\_\_ to God

**Conclusion: Keeping a sense of humor**

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**Monday** -- For our study today, take a moment to read those scriptures which command us to honor and revere our parents (remember these words weren't written to little children...but to adult children): *Read Exodus 20:4 and Deuteronomy 5:16*. What does it mean to "honor" our parents? *Read Ephesians 6:1-3* where Paul quotes the commandment, and notes its promise. How can you honor your mother and father today? If they are deceased, how can you honor their memory? As you close your devotion time, pause to pray and give thanks to your parents.

**Tuesday** – Most of us have had moments where our parents disappointed us, or times when they said or did something, which hurt us. For some these were such deep wounds they will never be forgotten. But holding onto harms inflicted on you in the past is the surest way to give them continuing power in your life, and to remain bitter. Instead choose to give these hurts to God, and ask for God to help you grow in grace – the capacity to offer forgiveness to those who wrong you. *Read Matthew 6:7-16* where Jesus teaches the Lord's Prayer. What role does forgiveness play in this prayer? *Read Matthew 18:21-35*. We sometimes chose to forgive – to relinquish our claim against another, even when they have not asked for our forgiveness. We do this to save ourselves from bitterness, and to demonstrate grace to the other. Pray for your parents, and turn over to God the disappointment or hurt you may still be holding on to. Ask for God's help in relinquishing the bitterness, if you have any. *Read Colossians 3:12-17* – how does this passage speak to you?

**Wednesday** – Let's look today at what the Proverbs say about how children treat their parents. As you read these passages pause after each one to reflect upon the meaning of this passage for your life. What would it look like to commit the sin listed in the passage? Have you ever done so? What would be the opposite of this action – in other words, if the Proverbs lays out what not to do, what *should* we do toward our parents? *Read Proverbs 1:8-9, 15:5, 17:6, 19:26, 20:20, 23:22, 28:24, and 30:17*.

**Thursday** – One of the most beautiful examples in all the Bible of the care a parent and child are meant to demonstrate to one another comes from the book of Ruth. In this case, it is not just the care of a child for her parent, but a daughter-*in-law* for her mother-in-law. *Read Ruth 1*, noting particularly verses 16-17. If you have time, read the rest of Ruth. You will find that these two women proved to be a blessing, each to the other. What sacrifices did Ruth make for Naomi? In what ways was Ruth blessed by Naomi? If your parents are still alive, how can you re-affirm your commitment to them, and bless them today? Take the time to write your parents a letter, conveying your love for them.

**Friday** – God intended for children to play some role in caring for their parents when their parents had need. Let's take a look at several passages that make this clear. *Read Mark 7:9-13*. What is Jesus forbidding here? *Read 1 Timothy 5:3-8*. How can you provide for your parents? What do they most need from you right now? Write your parent(s) a letter today; thanking them for the life they gave you!