

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

Most every Christian, especially children, know we are to honor our father and mother. The problem is that we haven't really understood what honor means. This is further indicated by the fact many Christians are obviously not in walking the promises that accrue to a person who honors your parents.

Ephesians 6:2-3

“Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.”

The Greek word translated honor here, *timao*, means to respect, to revere, to esteem. Therefore, those who do not respect and revere their parents will not have things go their way and will not live out the intended duration of their life. So the root of many people's problems may very well be that they haven't truly honored their parents, which is a heart issue.

Additionally, the Bible addresses the problems accruing to those who dishonor their parents in the Old Testament, and Jesus Himself reaffirms this in the book of Matthew.

Deuteronomy 27:16

“Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother. And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’”

Matthew 15:4

“For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.’”

The Old Testament Hebrew word for dishonor here, *qalah*, means to despise, to lightly esteem, to condemn. Notice the penalty for dishonoring your parents is to be cursed, which would imply things are not going to go well for you.

How do you dishonor? By hating, resenting, cursing, rebelling against, speaking badly of, having unforgiveness or bitterness towards, etc.

There also appears to be no conditions included in the command to honor our parents. It doesn't make any difference whether they were mean, not respectable, not Christian, or even abusive, we still have the requirement to honor them in our heart.

Even after we are married and are not in our parent's household, we still have to honor them. There doesn't seem to be a statute of limitations on the command either.