

FIFTH WORD OF GRACE: EXTENDED LOVE

Exodus 20.12

“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; Deuteronomy 5.16

This fifth word of grace (given to adult children) is elaborated in Scripture in many places (Exodus 21.15, 17; Leviticus 20.9; Deuteronomy 21.18-21; 27.16; Proverbs 1.8; 15.5; 19.26).

Jesus' teaching and practice **reinforces the fifth word of grace:** Matthew 15.3-9

But he also **shocks his listeners:** Matthew 10.35-37; Luke 16.26

He also **calls for the creation of a new family:** Luke 2.49; Matthew 6.9; Luke 8.20-21

In Ephesians, Paul teaches,

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ – which is the first commandment with a promise – ‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6.1-4

What Is Honor?

The Hebrew work is *kabod*, which is related to heavy. To honor someone is to not take them lightly but to treat them with seriousness. Honor does not imply unilateral obedience but rather treating someone with care and respect in deed and word. To honor someone is to treat that person as valuable, to grant influence, dignity, importance and authority.

What about the Promise of Long Life?

Why Should We Honor Father and Mother?

“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5.8

What Father and Mother Do We Honor?

Does this command really mean that we must honor an absent, neglectful, abusive or even dangerous parent? The fifth word of grace is controlled by the first.

Mark 3.31-35

The language of *fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers* and *daughters* is very common in the Christian community.

Deuteronomy 32.6; Isaiah 9.6; Matthew 6.9; Romans 8.15; Galatians 4.6

1 Corinthians 4.15; Acts 16.1; 1 Corinthians 4.17; 1 Timothy 1.2; 2 Timothy 1.2; 1 Timothy 5.1-2

How Does the Fifth Word of Grace Help the People Around Me?