

## Honoring Father and Mother

How well do we honor mom and dad today?  
Ephesians 6:2-3

Honor - dictionary definition is “high public esteem; fame; glory”

-When you honor someone, you are saying they are great; they are wonderful, and your actions towards them show it.

Original context of where Eph.6:3,2 comes from Exodus 20:12, *Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*

-Honoring your father and your mother is very close to God’s heart.

*Honor* in original Hebrew - “heavy, weighty.” Literally, “to lay it on them.” In today’s culture, we call it *flattery*.

So, to *honor* in Scripture means *to weigh someone down with respect and prestige. I place upon you great worth and value.*

In the Ten Commandments, most commentators and scholars teach that the first four commandments describe our relationship with God and the next six as our relationship with people. The Jews, however, teach that all ten are about our relationship with God. Why? *Because parents represent God to us when we are young. At an early age, our foremost relationship is with mom and dad; they represent Christ to us.*

Our relationship with them should be a heavy, weighty relationship. A relationship that is deep and profound: life changing.

This relationship with mom and dad is not based on rules and regulations, but on relationship.

God commands clear honor regardless of performance, behavior or dysfunction!

*Why? It requires faith to believe that somehow God can use imperfect people like our parents to help shape us into people He wants us to be. If we want to experience more spiritual growth, we’ve got to pay heed in honoring mom and dad.*

Honor does not mean to excuse them of their sin, or trivialize pain they have caused you, but it does challenge you to see the truth of the Gospel that our faith rests on.

What is the truth of the Gospel? Even when we did not deserve to be saved, but deserved damnation, we were paid the highest honor of God: He became like one of us, suffered like us, and died on the cross like a common criminal. He did all that to forgive us and He said, “I love you!”

Honoring your mom and dad is a good barometer of how much you have grown in faith.

If we do move towards them in love, with Christ as our only backup, letting Him be our Rock, we will know in a richer way what it means to trust God with our pain, unfulfilled longings for unconditional love and acceptance that only God can give.

How important is this to God? Ex.21:15, 17 and Deut.21:18-21  
Death penalty for anyone who did not honor their parents.

Examples in Scripture of people who did and did not honor their parents: Ham, Esther. Lot's daughters, Moses, Jesus

Honoring parents takes faith.

Honoring your parents could include these things:

1. choosing to place great value on your relationship with them
2. taking the initiative to improve your relationship
3. obeying them until you've established yourself as an adult
4. recognizing what they've done right in your life
5. recognizing the sacrifices they have made for you
6. praising them for the legacy they are passing on to you
7. seeing them through the eyes of Christ, with understanding and compassion
8. forgiving them as Christ has forgiven you

Examples of ways to honor your father and/or mother

1. On a day other than Mother or Father's Day, it would mean so much to them to receive some form of communication, letting them know you are thinking of them.
2. A wonderful present you could give to your parent is some permanent recording that looked back on several specific things they had done for you in the past.
3. Give your parent a hug each time you see them.
4. You honor your parent when you do chores or somethings else without being asked.
5. When you reach out to help others who have been less fortunate than yourself, you parents will be honored. Just ask them.
6. You honor your parent when you ask them for advice concerning you struggles and needs in her life.
7. Tell you parents the truth, even when it means disagreeing with them or expressing an opinion different from yours.
8. Pray for your parents every day. They are more than likely praying for you,
9. Christian parents are honored when they see their kids thirsting for the Lord.
10. Teen - You honor your parents when you come to them to talk about tough stuff like drinking, sex, drugs, and the like.
11. Parents are honored when the see how their son treats his wife and children with love, compassion, honor and dignity, and hearing him say he learned it from them. What could be more honoring to any parent, especially a Christian parent.

Honoring your parents is an attitude accompanied by actions that says to them:

*You are worthy. You have value. You are the person God sovereignly placed in my life. You may have failed me, hurt me, and disappointed me at times, but I am taking off my judicial robe and releasing you from the courtroom of my mind. I choose to look at you with compassion - as people with needs, concerns and scars of your own.*