

RULES TO LIVE BY!

6. Respect Your Parents



Introduction

The first four commandments that God gave through Moses deal with man's relationship with God Himself. Can you remember what they are? The fifth commandment focuses on our relationship with our parents, and then the last five speak about our relationships with other people. Let's look now at the fifth commandment.

Scripture Reading: **Deuteronomy 5:16, Leviticus 19:3**

- ❶ What words are used to describe what our attitude should be towards our parents?
- ❷ In what way are children to show their respect for their parents, and what is the responsibility of their father? Ephesians 6:1-4
- ◆ For those who are parents: What advice would you give to younger people who will be parents one day, from your own experience?
- ◆ For young people: What do you appreciate about your own father that has earned your respect? What would you have liked him to do differently!?

By the time of Jesus, the religious leaders had added many of their own traditions to the laws that God had given. Let's read Mark 7:9-13.

- ❸ What tradition had the Jewish leaders added to the fifth commandment, and why did Jesus say it was wrong?
- ❹ What do you think Jesus' response shows about his attitude towards helping your parents, and how did Jesus demonstrate that he honored his earthly parents? See Luke 2:51-52, John 19:26-27
- ❺ In your own culture how should a young person or an adult honor his/her father and mother? What is expected of you? What traditions should you not follow, and what traditions are good? Discuss.
- ❻ What promises does God give if we keep the fifth commandment? Ephesians 6:3

Conclusion

When God gave mankind the fifth commandment, He knew that parents were not perfect! They make mistakes. For those of us who are parents, we know we have made mistakes too! And for those of you who will be parents one day, be assured, you will no doubt make mistakes as well!

And yet God gives this command: "Honor, respect, your father and mother." Perhaps we need to reflect on our own life – have we truly done as God commands? Is there any attitude that needs to be changed? If there is, ask for God's forgiveness, and then His grace to enable you to honor your parents. They may have failed many times, but this never excuses us from being obedient to what God tells us to do. It will go well with us if we do! Amen.