

Take It Home!

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.



The commandments open (1-3) with our relationship with God and how that directs our paradigm. Now God turns our perspective towards the complexities of life in relationship to others, that is loving our neighbor, and the starting point is the family. Why? Nuclear family becomes extended family becomes tribe becomes social structure. Family is the building block of sociology. But this is God talking. He's not just building a society; he's building his kingdom with his image bearers and the family is the schoolroom where we learn to live out our calling. God blesses the respect we offer to him and directs our attention to respect the first association we have - our parents. The value of family has come under countless attacks through the ages, but God puts it up front.

Daily Reading

Quiet your mind with some silence and then meditate on one of these texts per day with the freedom to bounce back to a text later in the week as you feel inclined.

Ephesians 6:1-4

Proverbs 23:22

Mark 7:10-12

Luke 2:51

Hebrews 13:17

Colossians 3:23-24

Daily Thought Directions

Let your thoughts follow the direction of one of the thought guides. Jot down your thoughts day to day so you can see the journey God is guiding. Make note of needs for praise, thanks, confession and calls for help - then have that prayer conversation.

- You may be a parent, you may be a child, you may be a parent and a child. What do you see freshly as your role as one who gives honor, as a one who is called to be honorable?
- There are so many ways to dishonor parents, you could start considering a child of 6 and work your way up to 60 to make such a list. What do you see as unhealthy, as poisonous about disrespect?
- This commandment lays out a broad principle, but we are as individuals called to live it simply where we currently are in the generational spectrum. What new attitude of honor, obey, love cherish will bring God's grace into your current generational relationship? How does that attitude look in action in your life?
- Luther spoke of "fathers by blood and fathers by office" in his Large Catechism. What teacher, pastor, mentor, employer, commander, government official will you send an honoring note to?
- What people might understand about God when they see you and your family live this way?

Points to talk to God about...

thanks, praise, confess, ask for help.