

Exodus 20:12 Honour where it's due



There could be a big danger in thinking that this fifth Word (or Commandment) only applies to youngsters, or at least ceases when our parents die.

And there's also the danger of not noticing just how hard this must be for so many modern children, particularly, to keep, with the way our society has downplayed and tried to redefine marriage, and generally tinkered with relationships of all sorts. It's hard enough to keep in an old-fashioned "normal" set-up, but all the more complex and challenging for today's generations.

Yet it is true: **parental honour promises societal benefits.**

➤ **What is commanded, and what is promised?**

The word "honour" in Hebrew is very close to the word for "glory". To *honour* someone is to mentally attach weight and importance to them – and *glory* is, more literally, "weightiness".

How does rendering "honour" change during our lifetimes?

Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20

1 Timothy 5:4,8 - "provide for" means "consider in advance"

"That your days may be long": a promise to individuals or to nations? What if a nation's citizens default on this kind of "honour"?

➤ **Who is spoken to, and who is spoken about?**

The main original hearers of this were *adults*.

Does this passage also suggest that we should honour *parenthood*, as well as individual parents?

But, on a more individual level ... where is "honour" due in step- or "blended" families? What if someone doesn't know their parent(s)? What if experiences of parents are far from positive?

➤ **Why are we to do this?**

We need to live in society's complex net of due honour. Where better to learn than as a child in one's own home?

➤ **How are we to do this?**

What do you find most challenging in all of this? What would you find helpful to talk through this evening?