

A Father's Honor Ephesians 6:1-4

Preface

The greatest calling and honor on earth is being a parent.

Being a good father is really hard work. It takes every ounce of your thought, discipline and wisdom to be a good father. No profession or office offers the challenges and rewards found in being a father.

Illus: When my daughter was a teenager, she programmed her phone so that when Pam or I called, the display read "FBI". We were always concerned about her whereabouts and safety.

Parents must be FBI agents, nurses, teachers, coaches, counselors and many other things. It isn't easy being a father. Being a good father is the hardest yet most rewarding work you will ever attempt.

Scripture

¹*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* ²*"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—* ³*"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."* ⁴*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV

Introduction

Like the word hero, the word honor has lost much of its meaning in our society today.

Honor (verb) – To show high regard, respect or revere someone for their worth or merit.

The Greek word translated "honor" means to fix a high value on something; to consider it prized.

God says a Father is to be honored.

Content

1. A Father is to be honored by his children

One of the Bible's most important commandments is to honor your father and mother.

- Children should honor their father because they value him dearly and appreciate all he does for them.

The older you become, the more you will value your parents. And when they are gone, you will long for their presence. You will reach a point that you would give anything to have just one more day to tell them how much you appreciate all they did for you.

- Children should honor their father out of love and obedience to God.

²⁰ *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.* Colossians 3:20 NIV

There are some things we do because God expects this of us and we want to please God. We please God when we honor our parents.

Likewise, we displease God when we do not obey and honor our parents. I have seen children tell parents to shut-up. I have seen children curse their parents. Rest assured this displeases God.

- Children should honor their father out of respect for themselves

There is a strong principal in our text that we must understand. Obedience and respect fosters self-discipline and self-control which brings stability and longevity in your life.

Too few young people today show respect. Few young people even say "yes sir" or "yes mam" or "Mr." and "Mrs." It is tragic that children are not taught to show respect. This lack of respect will come back to haunt them later in life as they attempt to be leaders themselves in the work force and in their own families.

Do not question God's word? A Father is to be honored by his children.

2. A Father is to be honored by his wife

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. *Ephesians 5:21-23 NIV*

A home that does not obey the word of God invites civil war.

A wife who loves and honors God will have little problem loving and honoring her husband.

A wife who loves and respects her husband does everything she can to care for him and bring out the best in him. Her desire is to make her husband happy and bring honor to him.

God made man to instinctively need the respect and appreciation of his wife. A man feels like he can conquer the world when he knows his wife is supporting him.

Illus: A few years ago I got a new welding machine. I went on the website of Miller Welding and was looking at some of the projects people had built. It caught my attention how most of the projects involved things men had built for their wives. It included tables, lamps, shelves and so forth. The men were so proud of what they had done for their wife. They bragged about how much their wife liked the results of their project and how much she enjoyed what they made.

In order to face the challenges of life, a man needs to know his wife is completely supporting him; honoring him.

Some women refuse to accept this command. I have observed women putting their husband down right in front of others. This accomplishes nothing but to deteriorate the marriage.

When you tear down your spouse, you tear down your marriage.

A Father is to be honored by his wife. **Your children will never honor their father any more than they see their mother honor their father.**

3. A Father is to be deserving of honor

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

As Fathers, we must walk the fine line of dispensing discipline and dispensing love and grace. We must teach our children right from wrong but we must never exasperate them; that is to provoke them to anger with petty rules or nagging. Our children must always know we love them.

²⁴ He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. *Prov. 13:24 NIV*

⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." *Psalms 127:4-5*

Fathers have great responsibility and we must understand that what we do every single day and every single hour is of extreme importance to our children and family.

About a year ago I wrote down some of my personal thoughts about my experience as a father. I would like to share them with you today.

My innermost regrets:

1. I regret the times I felt they consumed too much of my time or placed excessive demands on me.
2. I regret the times I didn't give them my undivided attention.
3. I regret the times I lost my temper.
4. I regret not speaking more words of wisdom and instruction.
5. I regret ever thinking money mattered much. Most of the fun we had didn't require money (Oak Mountain State Park).

My innermost treasures:

1. I value every moment we had together (mowing, fishing, sports, Barbie car, baseball on head, bench seat truck).
2. I was honored whenever they asked my opinion or advice on something.
3. I am humbled that God allowed me to be an imperfect father.

4. I always got a kick watching my son hug his mother.
5. I always marveled at how much my daughter was like my wife.
6. I treasure having been there when they accepted Christ.

Fathers, treat your children as if they are valuable jewels to be protected and treasured. Give them the very best of your time and effort. **Allow them to see God in you.**

Quote: *“A child is not likely to find a father in God unless he finds something of God in his father.”*

For children to honor their father, they need to see their father honoring God. You do not have to be a perfect father but your children must observe your faith.

⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 6:4-7(NIV)

Do you train your children in the way of the Lord and teach them God’s word? Is God’s word on your heart?

You can dedicate your baby every Sunday until that child is eighteen but if you do not dedicate yourself to the Lord, it means nothing.

Fathers must be dedicated to the Lord. How do your children see you handle the challenges of life?

Your life is the window through which your children will see Christ.

Conclusion

We have all heard the old saying, “An apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.” Watch this.

Show Video: I’m watching you Dad.