



Parents

If you're reading this...

It can be hard to know how to be a good son or daughter. We hope this helps you understand what God thinks about how kids ought to treat their parents. You may be more interested in learning what God expects of parents, but you have more control over how you treat them, so let's start with that first.

Key Verse:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.'"
Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV)

What does it mean to honor my parents?

God tells us that we are to obey our parents *and* honor them. Obedience is straightforward: God wants us to follow their directions. Obeying our parents doesn't go far enough, God wants us to also honor our parents. Honoring our parents means that we value them as important.

Consider the important things in your life: you treat them differently than the unimportant. Honoring our parents leads to better families. It also results in a healthy spiritual life: when we honor our parents, we're also honoring God.

The journey of learning to be obedient and respectful isn't easy. Every family is different, so each child walks a slightly different path. The difficulty is compounded because you are in an age of self discovery, and that often involves breaking away, to some degree, from your parents.

As you grow in your ability to honor your parents, avoid the trap of comparing your family to another family. You'll always lose in this comparison game. First of all, you probably don't see the bad things in other families. Second, jealousy won't help you become better at honoring your parents. Finally, God has created you for your family, not another one! It isn't always easy to live to up God's standard, for some people, home is the most difficult place to be a Christian.

Seriously? Honor MY parents!?

Maybe you are thinking:

My parents don't respect me, why should I respect them?

My parents don't understand anything about me, why should I even try?

Why should I obey my parents when their rules keep me from what I want?

For most of us, honoring parents isn't easy. Period. It's not easy, but it is worth doing. God wouldn't tell us to honor our parents unless it was the best way to live as a family. When you honor your parents:

You make their life easier.

You make "room" for more peaceful confrontation.

You earn more of their respect and trust.

You reflect the love of Jesus to your family.

When it's done right, honoring our parents is tough. But we have God standing with us to do the right thing.

Going Deeper

Read and reflect on Proverbs 1:8-9; Proverbs 6:20-21; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20; 1 Peter 5:5-6; Hebrews 4:15-16

Side Bar

If you have any questions about anything you've read or you want advice about how to handle something specific you're going through, feel free to talk to any CSM adult leader. We'd love to be able to listen and help you grow in your walk with Christ in any way that we can. We love you!