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honor in the Bible means “**esteem**, **value**, or **great respect**.”

To honor someone is to **value them highly** or value upon him.

1. To whom should we give honor?

- The Bible tells us to express honor toward certain people: our parents, the aged, and those in authority.

(Ephesians 6:2) “**Honor your father and mother**”—which is the first commandment with a promise.

- **Children were required by law to submit to the authority of their parents.**

(Leviticus 19:32) Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.

- *Israelites are commanded to respect their elders.*

(Romans 13:1) Submission to Governing Authorities

13 *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities*, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2. Why do we honor our mothers?

- Honor is giving respect not only for merit but also for rank.

3. Are we required to honor our mother at all times?

- Some of you may disagree with your mother's decisions, but you should still respect her position as leader of the home.

(Romans 13:1) Submission to Governing Authorities

13 *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities*, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

- Children of all ages should honor their parents, regardless of whether or not their parents "deserve" honor.

Example:

- Some Americans may disagree with the President's decisions, but they should still respect his position as leader of the country.
- Similarly, children of all ages should honor their parents.

4. Why does God put such emphasis on this command?

- He values honoring parents enough to include it in the Ten Commandments and again in the New Testament.

(Exodus 20:12) Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

- The dual focus demonstrates that faith to God was of central importance for the family. This is the only law with an entirely positive message and an offer of reward.

(Ephesians 6:1–3) 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“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

- Reflects the fifth commandment. In the first century, Roman society, children were required by law to submit to the authority of their parents.

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

5. What is the reward?

- Honoring parents is the only command in Scripture that promises long life as a reward.

6. Do you know it's a blessing to honor your mother?

- Those who honor their parents are blessed.

(Jeremiah 35:18–19) Then Jeremiah said to the family of the Rekabites, “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘You have obeyed the command of your forefather Jehonadab and have followed all his instructions and have done everything he ordered.’ ¹⁹Therefore this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Jehonadab son of Rekab will never fail to have a descendant to serve me.’

- It indicates that the family will have an enduring legacy of faithful people worship God. Despite the coming judgment, a remnant will be preserved from the Rechabites.

7. When does God say it's ok not to honor our mother's?

- While we are required to honor parents, that doesn't include imitating ungodly ones.

(Ezekiel 20:18–19) I said to their children in the wilderness, “Do not follow the statutes of your parents or keep their laws or defile yourselves with their idols. ¹⁹I am the Lord your God; follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

- ❖ If a parent ever instructs a child to do something that clearly contradicts God's commands, that child must obey God rather than his/her parents.

8. When is it time to stop honoring your mother?

- Although we may no longer be directly under their authority, we cannot outgrow God's command to honor our parents.

9. What can we learn from Jesus when it comes to honoring our mother's?

- Jesus, God the Son, submitted Himself to both his earthly parents and His heavenly Father.

(Luke 2:51) Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

(Matthew 26:39) Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

10. How many of you follow Christ's example when honoring your parents?

- Following Christ's example, we should treat our parents the way we would reverentially approach our heavenly Father.

(Hebrews 12:9) Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

11. We are commanded to honor our parents, but how?

- Honor them with both actions and attitudes.

(Mark 7:6) He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites as it is written:

" 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

- Honor is more than lip service. The word "honor" is a verb and demands an action.
- They failed to follow God's commandments.

- ❖ We should seek to honor our parents in much the same way that we strive to bring glory to God—in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Conclusion:

- For a young child, obeying parents goes hand in hand with honoring them. That includes listening, heeding, and submitting to their authority.
- The obedience that they learned as children will serve them well in honoring other authorities such as government, police, and employers.

(Acts 5:29) Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!

- Honor begets honor.
- God will not honor those who will not obey His command to honor their mother’s.
- If we desire to please God and be blessed, we should honor our mother’s.
- Honoring is not easy, is not always fun, and is not possible in our own strength.
- But honor is a certain path to our purpose in life—glorifying God. “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord” **(Colossians 3:20)**.