

How to Raise Your Parents

S.R. Mark 7:9 - 13

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I. Introduction

- A. Ten Commandments were designed for the good of the people (Deut. 6:24 – 25)
- B. Honoring parents grows out of our relationship with God.
- C. Honoring Parents is placing upon them recognition of worth and value.
 - 1. Prov. 10:1 “A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.”
 - 2. Prov. 15:20 “A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother.”
 - 3. Prov. 19:26 “He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace.”
 - 4. Prov.23:22 “Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old...24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. 25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.”
- D. What Honoring is and is Not
 - 1. “Our culture honors youth, wealth, beauty and athletic ability – not parents, not the elderly, not the wise or righteous.” (Rainey, *Best Gift* 18)
 - 2. Honoring is not:
 - a. Approving of parents’ wrong actions or choices
 - b. Allowing them to control you physically or emotionally as an adult
 - c. Endorsing irresponsibility
 - d. Denying what they have done wrong
 - 3. Honoring is:
 - a. Choosing to place value on your relationship with them
 - b. Taking the initiative to improve the relationship
 - c. Obeying them until you establish yourself as an adult
 - d. Recognize what they have done right in your life
 - e. Seeing them as God does, with understanding and compassion
 - f. Forgiving them as Christ has forgiven you.

II. Inviting God to Clean House – the Cleaning of Rooms

- A. Cleaning out the heart (Mark 7:20 – 23)
- B. Room of Lost Convictions
 - 1. When we live as though God doesn’t exist or He has no claim upon us we drift away from the anchor of absolute truth.

2. If we have parents who taught us these truths, however imperfectly, we need to seek forgiveness and reconciliation when straying from those truths.
- C. Room of Improper Attachment to Parents (Gen. 2:24) "Leave, cleave ---"
- D. Room of Desire for Revenge
1. The attitude of "I won't honor my parents until they earn it" hurts everyone.
 2. Are you angry about your parents' character flaws or your own?
 3. Are you secretly enjoying "punishing" your parents?
 4. At some point you must decide whether Christ will be allowed into this room with mercy and grace or will it remain a closed room of revenge and bitterness?
- E. Room of Fear
1. Another common fear is that attempts to honor parents will be dismissed or demeaned.
 - a. Approval of parents is desired but so infrequently given.
 - b. Fear that they will once again reject and condemn your effort.
 - c. Take this to the Lord (1 Peter 5:7) "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."
- F. Room of Pride
1. Are we unwilling to take responsibility for how we have wronged our parents – through neglect, passivity, rebellion or cruel comments?
 2. It is easier to blame our parents than seek reconciliation.
 3. "Genuine humility can bring healing to an estranged relationship with your parents."
- G. Room of Unfair Expectations
- H. Room of Selfishness
1. As children we are naturally focused upon self – preservation.
 2. As we mature we come to realize that our parents are people with real needs that we can and should meet.
 3. The Pharisees, "who loved money" (Luke 16:14) were condemned by Jesus for their treatment of their parents (Mark 7:6 – 13).

III. Three Gifts to Give Your Parents

- A. Understanding – key to unlocking your ability to honor their parents.
- B. Compassion – feel with your parents
- C. Forgiveness – "Just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:31 – 32)