

Eight Words to Change Your Family for Life

Word # 3 Honor

Pastor Rick Edwards

Exodus 20:12

Ephesians 6:2-3

LP Honoring our parents is an action of deep sincerity. It is far more than surface flattery; biblical honor involves identifying the things that your parents have done right and then praising them for those things—whatever they might be.

Honoring your parents does not mean these three things:

- Groveling and seeking their approval.
- Making yourself vulnerable to their hurtful behavior.
- Ignoring or denying the past.

However, honoring your parents does mean:

- Choosing to place great value on your relationship with them instead of any attitude that says “it doesn’t matter.”
- Taking the initiative to improve the relationship in whatever ways you can.
- Recognizing that they have done some things right.
- Acknowledging the sacrifices they have made for you.
- Seeing them as Christ does, with compassion and mercy.
- Forgiving them, even as God in Christ has forgiven you.

LP When We Honor Our Parents, God Blesses Us For Life!

How? Ephesians 6:2-3

Relationally, Spiritually, Physically, Financially, Emotionally etc...

We are to honor our parents:

- Even when we don’t feel like it 1 Timothy 5:8
- Even when they want receive it.
- Even if they have been abusive.

Honoring your Parents

Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:2-3

In a written tribute acknowledge all the good that your parents have done for you. Tell them how thankful you are to be their son or daughter. Express your love for them and recognize their sacrifices on your behalf.

- Be honest.
- Be positive.

Just focus on the good. Philippians 4:8 says, “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute ... dwell on these things.”

- Be yourself, and tell them what’s on your heart.

PRAYER TO GO HIGHER

Lord, I acknowledge that Your ways are always best. Please forgive me for any failing to do what You clearly command in Your Word. Forgive me for not having honored my parents to the best of my abilities. Help me to honor my parents in a significant way through a formal, written tribute.

Prepare their hearts to receive it, Lord. And strengthen me to honor them in small ways on a day-to-day basis. May I seize every opportunity to give them the respect they deserve.

Thank You, Lord, for Your promise that when I do this, You will bless me in ways that I can’t even imagine. Grant me a long and prosperous life, Lord. May You receive all the glory that comes from my obedience to You. I pray this in Jesus’ name, the name that is most worthy of honor. Amen.

