

Honour Parents

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon (All Age Service)
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 14th March 2010

(OPENING SCREEN)

Intro

Today Mother's day a time to say thankyou to mothers for the good they bring into our lives. Whilst we may or may not have a mother who is still alive or may or may not have children of our own there is a principle from the Bible which we are all commanded to keep- the principle of honouring parents.

Read Deut 5:16

Why Honour Parents?

- **(PICTURE OF MOSES) Command of God-** Parenthood modelled on God and us-call Him 'Father'. Dishonouring parents is like dishonouring Him. To dishonour parents is to disobey God's command to us (& repeated in N.T- Eph 6:2).
- **Grattitude-** just as we praise the Lord to show our grattitude to Him, so also we exhibit a thankful attitude to those who are most influential in our lives- nappie changes. Years of sleepless nights etc.
- **(PICTURE OF SPOCK) Blessings it produces-** first commandment with a promise- it is worth our while doing it. Spock greeting- 'live long and prosper'
- **(PICTURE OF LONG LIFE) Live long-** disobedience and rebellion against parents sets up bad habits which continue later in life and can shorten our lifespan. 'Don't smoke', 'put your seatbelt on', 'we're walking to school today', 'eat your vegetables', 'it's time to get up we're going to church today' -some of the sayings of 'nagging' parents. **Top Ten Best Ways to Shorten Your Life- Avoid These and Live Longer by Mark Stibich, Ph.D Updated November 24, 2008.** **1. Smoke-** Smoking is a fantastic way to not only to shorten your life, but to reduce your quality of life too. Not only will smokers have up to 14 years less life on average, they will also suffer from side effects like insomnia, shortness of breath and agitation from almost day one. Best of all, they get to pay thousands of dollars a year for these results. And if you want to shorten your life span, don't think you can let up on smoking as you age -- even in middle age or later, when people quit smoking their health improves greatly.**2. Bad Driving / No Seatbelt** Here's another great way to shorten your life expectancy: drive recklessly and don't wear a seatbelt. Driving accidents are a leading cause of death for young people (and a major cause of death for older people too). **3. Don't Exercise** Being a couch potato shortens your life expectancy by as much as 9 years. Basically, when you don't workout regularly, your cells tend to age faster (not to mention the extra weight that seems to stick to you more). Not exercising is also a great way to increase your stress level while decreasing your energy level. Not exercising even helps you not fall asleep at night. So if you want to shorten your life expectancy, be tired all the time and feel tense -- not exercising might be right for you. **4. Don't Eat Fruits and Vegetables** Be careful about fruits and vegetables. They contain substances that not only keep you healthy, but that also repair some of the damage caused by aging. When you eat them, they actually can reverse aging in your body. If you are looking to shorten your life span, be sure not to eat more than a few fruits and vegetables each day and cover them in butter and cheese to erase their anti-aging and health benefits. **9. Skip Church / Services** No one really know why (divine justice?) but skipping church or other religious services can shorten your life expectancy by a few years. It seems that people who go to religious services regularly just live longer. To shorten your life expectancy, avoid religious services at all costs and (just to be safe) don't even look at a church, mosque, temple or synagogue.
- **Prosper-** go well in the land God is giving you- i.e. So that your inheritance will not be spoiled, so that you will not be fruitless. Fruitless Christianity can often be a by product of a life where parental figures are never honoured. Even Jesus submitted to His parent's authority ('was subject to them'-Lk 2:51) and honoured his mother by caring for her wellbeing whilst He himself was dieing on the cross (John 19:26-27). He always honoured His heavenly Father. God honours those who honour others. Land would be cursed if hearts of fathers and children not turned to each other in Malachi 4:6- lack of honour breeds a destructive curse.

How do we honour our Parents?

- **(4 PICTURES OF GREY HAIR) Honouring those older than us-** Grey hair a crown of glory- Prov 16:31- i.e. Older people usually do know better because they have life experience- even though they might look like duffers. One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Momma?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?" Solomon's son Rehoboam decided to listen to the advice of young inexperienced people rather than older experienced people and regretted it.
- **(PICTURE OF MISS HELPFUL) Submissive attitude** to God-given authority. Authority figures are like our parents- as we were with our parents we tend to be with others who like our parents are delegated authority over us by God (school teachers, police, employers, church leaders). Choose to make their job a joy and God will be honoured too.
- **Forgiving them.** Parenting is a tough job- often there is no training available apart from what we saw our own parents do, and we tend to repeat their mistakes and end up sounding like our own parents. Speaking well of our parents despite their faults. Praying for them. Being thankful for the good they have done.
- **Doing them proud** whether they see us or not, whether they are alive or not. **(PICTURE OF SIMON COWELL)** Simon Cowell- father Eric Cowell was a record company executive with EMI. He died at home in 1999 of a massive heart attack on the very day that Simon got his first Number One with a then-unknown band called Westlife who his dad had predicted would become big. It is said of Alexander the Great that in his army was a soldier named Alexander. One day the great general, after noticing the slothfulness with which the soldier performed his duty, went to him and requested that he either change his name or become a better soldier, and cease to dishonor the name of his general.
- **(2 PICTURES OF CARING) Caring for them-** time, encouragement. Helping them when they get older whether they live with us or need to be in a home. Chinese people respect and honor their parents. It is a cultural obligation to look after the elderly in Asian countries. In these cultures, parents see themselves in their children, and Chinese, especially, are acutely aware that their offspring provide a continuum to their lives. Children who do not honor their parents are considered "worse than animals".
Once there was a little old man. His eyes blinked and his hands trembled; when he ate he clattered the silverware distressingly, missed his mouth with the spoon as often as not, and dribbled a bit of his food on the tablecloth. Now he lived with his married son, having nowhere else to live, and his son's wife didn't like the arrangement. "I can't have this," she said. "It interferes with my right to happiness." So she and her husband took the old man gently but firmly by the arm and led him to the corner of the kitchen. There they set him on a stool and gave him his food in an earthenware bowl. From then on he always ate in the corner, blinking at the table with wistful eyes. One day his hands trembled rather more than usual, and the earthenware bowl fell and broke. "If you are a pig," said the daughter-in-law, "you must eat out of a trough." So they made him a little wooden trough, and he got his meals in that. These people had a four-year-old son of whom they were very fond. One evening the young man noticed his boy playing intently with some bits of wood and asked what he was doing. "I'm making a trough," he said, smiling up for approval, "to feed you and Mamma out of when I get big." The man and his wife looked at each other for a while and didn't say anything. Then they cried a little. Then they went to the corner and took the old man by the arm and led him back to the table. They sat him in a comfortable chair and gave him his food on a plate, and from then on nobody ever scolded when he clattered or spilled or broke things. (Grimms tales)

Bible example of honouring- David

- **(PICTURE OF KING DAVID)** King David had nightmare parents- Dad didn't even include him as a son when Samuel came along to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king of Israel (1Sam 16:11). He said in Psalm 27:10- 'For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the LORD will take me up.' (NASB)
- David honoured his undeserving father by honouring God with his conduct by facing and defeating Goliath- as a result Saul wanted to know 'whose son this was' (1Sam 17:55-58)- he dad was brought honour as a result.
- David's heart to honour continued when Saul, who was like a father-figure to David

kept trying to kill David, but he would 'not lay a finger on the Lord's anointed'. 1Sam 24:6; 26:11

Bible examples of dishonouring- Absalom, Ham

- **(PICTURE OF ABSOLOM)** Thought he knew better than his dad, and thought that he could do a better job than him. 2Sam15-18. He made out that he could get justice for the people that his father could not and won over their hearts and then proclaimed himself as king in his father's place, and set out to kill his father. He was very handsome and had long flowing hair (2Sam 14:25-26). Eventually his head/hair got stuck in an oak tree as he was riding through a wood in pursuit of David's armies, and they killed him.
- Gen 9:18-27. When Noah got (probably accidently) drunk on wine and was naked Ham (father of Canaan) told his 2 brothers to expose his dad to ridicule but they honoured their father and put clothes on him without seeing his nakedness. This rebellious streak in Ham was passed onto his son Canaan- i.e. One of Ham's descendants followed in his father's footsteps and became the rebellious Canaanites who were kicked out of the land of Israel due to their rebellion against God. Meanwhile Shem and Japheth were blessed by God for honouring their father.

Conclusion

- **(PICTURE OF SPOCK & MUM+DAD)** Do you honour your parents/memory of your parents? Do you honour the elderly/authority figures? Think of some practical things you can do today to express an attitude of honour to parental figures God has placed in your life.
- *Song: Father God I wonder*