

A Child's Responsibility

Description

Deuteronomy 5:12-22 [RG AUDIO 011013](#)

The 5th commandment acts as a pivot or hinge between the first 4 commandments that relate specifically to God and the last 5 that relate to community and life on earth. This is quite logical, since parents are seen as the very representatives of God's authority for the family and parents are responsible to teach their children about covenant life. Children are to respond in faithful obedience. This is foundational, because failure to keep covenant within the family can harm the entire community.

Children may fail to honor parents by obvious acts of disobedience including: disrespect, striking a parent, cursing a parent, or simply not obeying simple instructions or fulfilling daily duties. Not to honor one's parents may also be seen in neglecting elderly parents or failing to provide adequate burial for them.

Since it is the parents who represent God to the children, to honor them is to honor the heavenly Father. Children have practiced with their earthly parents, but do we, as adults, also practice perfect obedience to our Father in heaven?

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