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OCTOBER 16, 2008

## Trouble at Home? Honor Your Parents

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How hard it is to hear about a child who, after reaching 19 years of age, turns against her mother and will have nothing to do with her. She won't even speak to her unless her words are full of profanity.



Think of how many meals the mother has prepared, clothes she has bought, shoes she has tied, baths that have been given, time spent cooking and feeding the child, help given with the child's homework. All these gifts are just for starters.

What about the fifth Commandment? It seems that many children and adults have not learned about this Commandment or its value:

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" – (Exodus 20:12 NKJV).

When I realized Dennis was going to propose to me, I phoned my father and got his approval. He said, "If he proposes, do not hesitate to say yes."

My Father over many years had verbally disapproved of most young men I had dated, but this time he gave me the okay. I'm sure Dennis was the next one to call my dad. I was honored to have him walk me down the aisle to give me away.

My mother had late onset diabetes so I needed to shop for her. I was able to buy an aqua blue two-piece dress for her to wear to my wedding.

My brother Bob and his wife put on the reception at their Country Club and my parents were the last ones there, laughing and having fun until Dennis and I left to board our plane to the Bahamas.

My parents lived in their own home to the end of their days and never needed a retirement home. After my parents' death, my siblings and I got together to purchase headstones for their graves.

If in your young adult years you were so wrapped up in yourself you didn't have or take time to remember your parents, what we did could give you some ideas. It's not too late for you. You could also purchase flowers for your church in memory of your parents.

Maybe you and your siblings, and grandchildren, could help write their memoirs. Or, if they are still alive, you can record the messages they want to leave behind.

Psychologist Dr. Laura says, "The command to honor parents cannot be absolute. If a parent tells his or her child to violate a civil or moral law, the child has no obligation to honor the request ... Our relationship to God always has precedence over our relationship to our parents." – (Schlessinger, Laura, *The Ten Commandments*, Harper Collins, 1998, p. 158).

In other words, not every parent can be fully honored, but do

work on healing your past memories to forgive him or her. You may eventually want to dust off an old picture of that parent and restore it to the gallery of family photos.

Dishonoring one's parent is not healthy.

The fifth Commandment is the only one with a promise – that of a long life. This can also mean that living a life of love and respect will make you healthier.

It is important to teach your children the Ten Commandments. "And you shall teach them thoroughly to your children." – (Deuteronomy 6:7). It does not say for the pastor or rabbi to teach them, but you, dear parent.

Hebrew Lesson: Let's learn the fifth Hebrew letter: "Hey" numerically is No. 5, and means breath of God. The sound of the "h" is made by an exhalation of breath. To draw a picture, make a capital H. Now erase the bar across the middle of H and put it on top. Then on the top left side, erase 1/3 of it. This leaves a space where the breath goes out.

This should remind you of the longer and better life you can have by honoring your parents.

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