

Honoring Our Family Legacy

October 13, 2013

Ephesians 6

If we want to leave a healthy legacy for our families, we have to honor those who have gone before us.

HONOR

Honor (Greek) – to highly value; to prize; to not take lightly; to give weight to; to ascribe worth

- Honor is not selective, but all inclusive
- Relationship-based; valuing someone and seeing them fully for who they are—from God’s perspective
- The measuring stick we use to determine if someone deserves honor cannot be based on what they’ve done, but how they are seen and loved by the Father

God has given commandments, guidelines and principles throughout His Word because He loves us and wants the best life for us (John 10:10).

Ephesians 6:2-3 – *“Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”* (NIV)

This relates to us whether we live at home or are adults—whether our parents are alive or have passed away

Why honor our parents?

- Because it’s the Father’s will—not for the promise!
- It’s His will because He’s all about love!
- Life flows through honor
- Healing in you and healing in your relationship with your parents will not completely manifest without honor

Not everyone has grown up in a healthy environment

- Not minimizing your situation or saying it was ok
- If you are in an abusive relationship with your parents, get help
- You can walk away and still extend honor and love
- You can at least thank them for the gift of life
- You may never have a healthy relationship with them
- Friend that was repeatedly physically abused by his father, maintained a

relationship, is helping to take care of him in his later years

SOWING & REAPING

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 – *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly, will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (NIV)

- There are many laws that are not in need of being enforced—they exist on their own
- The law of sowing and reaping is intended for blessing, but can produce unhealthy fruit

Sparingly – to be stingy

- To give with a closed hand

Generously – bountiful, unselfish blessing

- To give with an open hand

Cheerful – hilarious; cheerfully ready to respond

KEY – Reaping will correspond to the proportion AND heart behind the sowing

- If we sow dishonor or unforgiveness, we will reap dishonor and unforgiveness in our relationships – as sure as the law of gravity
- If we sow generous love, we will reap a harvest of love
- Ham spoke of Noah’s nakedness; Shem and Japheth covered him and did not look on him—Ham sowed cursing and reaped it

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 – *“A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.”* (MSG)

HOW DO WE WALK IN HONOR TOWARD OUR PARENTS?

1. STAY CONNECTED with the Father
 - We can’t strive to honor—honor comes from Him
 - We can’t fully embrace God’s heart of honor for someone apart from Him
 - Honoring your parents is not contingent on their worthiness or your emotional strength to carry it out—Jesus can help us.

Galatians 5:16 – *“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”* (NLT)

2. Be quick to FORGIVE

- 1 Corinthians 13:5 – *“Love keeps no record of being wronged”* (NLT)... *“Love...takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].”* (AMP)
- We’re called to be a forgiving generation—quick to forgive
- When you are unwilling to forgive, bitterness, resentment, anger and/or hatred begins to fester—then YOU get stuck
- You think you are hurting the other person, but you are trapping YOU
- The Father didn’t want us getting stuck, so He’s given us the ability to love and forgive people—that’s our ticket out
- Honor paves the way for forgiveness
- Jesus said, “Freely you have received, freely give”...we have freely received mercy, so freely give it...love, so freely give it...forgiveness, so freely give it
- You can forgive and seek to honor them—it starts in your heart and thoughts.

3. Put on LOVE

1 John 4:7-8 - *“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”* (NIV)

- Honor comes from love—it does not exist without love
- If you remove love from the picture, you remove God from the picture because God is love
- Honor is never built around “what I need”, but rather “what I can give”.
- Love drops the expectations of how you want them to be as parents or how you wanted them to express love to you. Love them for who they are and what they are able to give you.
- Proverbs 10:12 – *“Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.”* (NIV)
- Love has power to break shame off of you and the one who hurt you
- Jesus’ last few hours were surrounded by honor and love for people, including his mom: He healed the ear of one of his arresting officers, He invited a thief into eternity, He made sure his mom was taken care of—all because He highly prized and saw the worth in all people