



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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SERIES : "10 DUMB WAYS TO MESS UP OUR LIVES"

November 13, 2005 Study 5 : "Not Giving Honour Where It's Due."

INTRODUCTION

TO THE SERIES

10 Dumb Ways To Mess Up Our Lives a fresh look at the 10 Commandments (See Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5) Note that they are not the Ten Suggestions! They are not arbitrary religious rules. They are not outdated curiosities that belong to an ancient and less sophisticated society. Whilst their introduction has a specific context, the 10 Commandments are not bound to a particular culture or time or nation.

They continue as the basic moral laws of creation for all people. If followed, they produce a healthy society by fostering proper relationships with God and with others. If ignored, they produce a mess in both our individual lives and our society as a whole.

Our task in this series is to understand what they mean and how to follow them in our lives and circumstances.

TO TODAY'S STUDY

Honour your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. Ex20:12

Our culture exalts the individual and new innovations - hardly surprising in an age of mobility and high technology. Things like the extended family and respect for the past are left off the list of priorities due to the pressure of the times in which we live.

But worse, some, with their own agenda, philosophically reject the notions of family and respect for any authority. So pervasive is this pressure that it even feels "uncool" to consider them. Apparently God sees things differently - very differently.

A. C5's PLACE IN THE ORDER

The first 4 commandments have to do with our relationship with GOD

C5 heads the remaining commandments that have to do with our relationships with OTHERS ... in those areas of human behaviour that generate the most-far-reaching consequences for good or ill on individuals, families, groups and society.

Should C6 - sanctity for human life - have come first? Good point. But we have already seen that the context of the 10 Commandments is relational

'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Ex19:4-6 (see also Deut 7:7-11)

We were formed for relationships : *It is not good that the man should be alone.* Genesis 2:18

..... and so the link between the two "sections" of the 10Cs's is relational. Through the primary relationship between parents and a child we learn trust, love, honesty, forgiveness, cooperation and everything else necessary for healthy relationships. In the process the foundations of a healthy self-identity and self-esteem are formed. C5, then sets the tone for the last six. It addresses the importance of our learning to treat each other with respect and honour.

God's intent was twofold: that parents

... may MODEL the love of God to their children so that they may learn to love him also.

... can catch a glimpse of God's ATTITUDE toward them, in theirs toward their own children.

B. C5 : A DOORWAY TO WIDER HONOUR

The language of C5 uses the word for "honour" often used in association with the worship of God. The authority of a parent is delegated from God. When the 10Cs were given, there was no higher human authority than parents. Israel had no government, schools or industry. Its basis was the extended family learning working and living together - the tribal unit.

The honour given and received within the extended family was TRAINING for honour to be given elsewhere This helps us as adults to establish a lifetime pattern of respect. The wider application of this important biblical principle is given clearly in the New Testament :

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the emperor as supreme authority, or to governors Show proper respect to everyone: love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the emperor. 1 Peter 2:17

It all begins with the respect and honour we show our parents.

C. C5 : WHAT DOES THE COMMANDMENT MEAN TODAY?

In essence, the SAME that it always has honour your father and mother!

Note 1 - an important point : C5 does not say OBEY or LOVE. The command says "honour"

This literally means "give weight" or more understandably, "respect the authority / office"

Note 2 - Dishonour may be shown by doing nothing, but honour can only be shown by our ACTIONS ... by something that we extend.

What honour we extend varies with the stage of life.

If I'm Still Under Parental Care, honour Includes . . . Respect and OBEDIENCE

If I'm No Longer Under Parental Care, honour Includes . . . Respect and SUPPORT

..... which includes friendship, care and consideration appropriate to the circumstances.

Soldier illustration

Recruit? Obey without question!

Service concluded / Veteran? Mateship, Remembering, Celebrating,

Caring.

Paul gave Timothy some instructions on caring for widows in the Church Family. The sense of a child's ongoing responsibility to honour their parents is captured ...

Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should first learn to put their faith into practice by caring for their own family whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. from 1Tm5:3-8

SOME POINTS TO HELP US INTERACT AS ADULTS WITH OUR PARENTS.

1. Never forget there are no perfect parents. (If you think that there are, ask your own children.)
2. Learn their story. They know yours, so return the compliment. Understanding what has shaped them as people lets them know that they are valued by the ones they value the most.
3. Find appropriate ways to show your gratitude for their love and provision.
4. Build a regular rhythm of celebrating your relationship with them into your life.
5. Go through their transitions of life with them - with wisdom, understanding and compassion.

A DUMB WAY TO MESS UP YOUR LIFE?

On the practical level, "What goes around, comes around." Honouring the generation above is a powerful model for your own children.

On the spiritual? Not honouring and respecting due human authority grows into a habit that will extend into our relationship with God.