# "HONOR YOUR MOTHER!"

**Selected Scriptures**

INTRODUCTION: ***"Honor"*** **=** To treat as valuable, precious, or important
***Honor your mother!**

**I. <u>WHY</u> Honor Her?**

A. Honor your mother for the <u>Lord's</u> sake

1. So that you may <u>obey</u> the Lord (Dt. 5:16)
2. So that you may <u>please</u> the Lord (Col. 3:20)

B. Honor your mother for <u>her</u> sake

1. Because of her personal <u>character</u>
2. Because of her older <u>age</u>
3. Because of her <u>position</u> of authority

C. Honor your mother for <u>your</u> sake

Eph. 6:2-3 - *"Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."*

1. So that you may live a <u>good</u> life
2. So that you may live a <u>long</u> life

**II. <u>HOW</u> to Honor Her:**

A. Honor your mother with respectful <u>actions</u> and <u>words</u> (Dt. 21:18-21; Ex. 21:15, 17; cp. Lev. 20:9)

B. Honor your mother by <u>listening</u> to what she says (Prov. 1:8, 9; 6:20)

C. Honor your mother by <u>respecting</u> what belongs to her (Prov. 28:24)

D. Honor your mother whether your <u>father</u> does so or not (I Pet. 3:7)

E. Honor your mother by <u>providing</u> for her needs (Mt. 15:3-6)

F. Honor your mother by living a life of <u>wisdom</u> not <u>foolishness</u> (Prov. 23:22-<u>25</u>)

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E. Honor your mother by _____ for her needs (Mt. 15:3-6)

F. Honor your mother by living a life of _____ not _____ (Prov. 23:22-<u>25</u>)

# "HONOR YOUR MOTHER!"

**Selected Scriptures**
***Mother's Day, 1994***
5/8/94

INTRODUCTION:

Some time ago in the dark, secret chamber of your mother's womb, you were conceived. What started as a minute living embryo quickly developed into a fully-formed baby as you extracted from your mother every nutrient you needed for rapid growth.

For nine months she ate for two, endured morning sickness, and put up with cramps and discomfort, tossing and turning in bed trying to find a comfortable way to sleep.

On occasion a contraction was felt (sometimes mild, other ones stronger) -- a reminder of the trauma to come in the future. Then the day came when your mother would endure the most physical painful experience she has perhaps ever had or would have.

Your mother was rushed to a hospital or perhaps had a mid-wife to assist her as she experienced the inescapable labor pains of child birth.

After a time of intense agony, sweat, and tears -- there you were. What love, amazement, and anticipation was in your mother's eyes as she pulled you to her breast, comforted you, and continued giving of herself to meet your needs.

She for several years would feed you, change your diapers, clothe you, discipline you, teach you and do innumerable things to prepare you for a life of independence and maturity.

No doubt there were many times when she cared for you during sickness, comforted you during fears and anxiety, encouraged you to do right, and provided for your needs and many of your wants.

She perhaps prayed for you; spent many sleepless nights concerned for you; she was so proud of you as you received recognition for great achievements at school. She literally gave perhaps 1/4 to 1/3 of her life all for you.

We could go on and on with details of the attention she gave you during those formative years. She poured out much for you.

Do you honor your mother?

SEE Matthew 19:19 - *"Honor thy. . . mother"*

--The New Testament word *"honour"* (*timios)* means to view as very valuable or precious; to respect as having great worth.

--The Old Testament word *"honour" (kabod)* referred to heaviness, one who carried much "weight" (not speaking of pounds, but importance; to view as important; worthy of glory and respect).

Today, far too many children treat their parents like garbage. No respect for those who brought them into this world, fed, clothed, and schooled them.

God forewarned us that there would be disrespect for parents in the Last Days.

II Tim. 3:1-3a - *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection..."*

SEE: Prov. 30:11-14

***Honor your mother!**

## I. **WHY Honor Her?**

A. Honor your mother for the Lord's sake

1. So that you may obey the Lord (Dt. 5:16)

Deut. 5:16 - *"Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."*

If there was no other reason, this one should be enough. Honor her because God says to!

He gives no conditions, no exceptions, no exclusions. No matter what type of mother you have, she is your mother and should be honored as such.

2. So that you may please the Lord (Col. 3:20)

Col. 3:20 - *"Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."*

Implicit in *"honor"* is obedience. No child honors their parents if they don't obey them.

The major way to show your mom that you honor her is to submit to her authority while you live under her room.

By obeying her, you obey the Lord. And all who obey Him, please Him.

B. Honor your mother for her sake

Mothers (like all who are honored) are honored for three basic reasons:

1. Because of her personal character

Mothers should be honorable. How?

a. An honorable woman fears the Lord

Prov. 31:28, 30 - *"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her...Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."*

b. An honorable woman is gracious in her treatment of others

*"A gracious woman retaineth honor"* (Prov. 11:16).

c. An honorable woman is humble in her view of herself

*"Before honor is humility*" (Prov. 15:33)

d. An honorable woman does what is right and merciful

*"He [she] that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth...honor"* (Prov. 21:21)

2. Because of her older age

Lev. 19:32 - *"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD."*
Job 12:12 - *"With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding."*
Prov. 23:22 - *"Despise not thy mother when she is old"*

3. Because of her position of authority

God, who put in place all positions of authority, commands children to honor their parents (for position's sake).

C. Honor your mother for your sake

Eph. 6:2-3 - *"Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."*

Prov. 30:17 - *"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it."*

Cp. Exod. 20:12

1. So that you may live a good life

2. So that you may live a long life

**God's Promises to children who honor their parents:**

1. **Such an attitude results in a <u>top quality</u> life** - *"well with thee . . ."* (v. 3a)

   Paul is quoting one of the 10 commandments (Ex. 20:12). This is the only one of the 10 that deals with the family. More specifically, the command to obey and honor one's parents is the <u>only</u> command given to children. Why only one! Because if this command was kept, a child would learn the most important lesson of his life -respect for authority. He would also fulfill the most important duty in terms of human relationships.

   From this would flow respect for others, for leaders, and most of all for God!

   "Well with thee" - they will stay out of things that shorten life and that take the real fun out of life!

2. **Such an attitude results in a <u>long quantity</u> of life** - *"live long . . ."* (v. 3b)

   "This does not mean that everyone who died young dishonored his parents. Paul is stating a principle: When children obey their parents in the Lord, they will escape a good deal of sin and danger and thus avoid the things that could threaten or shorten their lives" (Wiersbe, p. 152).

## II. <u>HOW</u> to Honor Her:

A. Honor your mother with respectful <u>actions</u> and <u>words</u> (Dt. 21:18-21; Ex. 21:15, 17; cp. Lev. 20:9)

   Exod. 21:15, 17 - *"And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death...And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death."*

   Honoring one's parents is so serious that the Old Testament Law commanded the death penalty for any child who wouldn't. This was a great deterrent to child delinquency and rebellion!

   Never call her "my old lady" (as many do in front of their peers).

   Don't blame your mother for the failures in your life (many children carry into adulthood bitterness toward their mother; and excuse their sinful ways because their mother was not what she should have been).

   You need to take personal responsibility for your own choices.

B. Honor your mother by listening to what she says (Prov. 1:8, 9; 6:20)

Prov. 1:8, 9 - *"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."*

Prov. 6:20 - *"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother."*

King Lemuel listened to his mother as a child (Prov. 31:1-9).

Timothy listened to his mother as a child (II Tim. 1:5 - *"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also"*; II Tim. 3:14-15 - *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus")*.

One of the ways God gets His instructions and directions to us is through the authorities He places over us!

God gives guidance to children through their mother and father. When ever a child refuses to take advice from a parent, bad things happen.

C. Honor your mother by respecting what belongs to her (Prov. 28:24)

Prov. 28:24 - *"Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer"*

No one is quite as low as a son or daughter who steals from his/her own parents.

ILLUS: the 1993 Mendalez murders, in which the two grown sons killed their parents so they could cash in on their life insurance policy and vast wealth.

ILLUS: children who wash their hands of their parents by confining them to a convalescent home when they get old and exploiting their savings.

Is this honor?

D. Honor your mother whether your father does so or not (I Pet. 3:7)

I Pet. 3:7 - *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."*

Husbands need to set an example of honoring their wife, since the children's attitudes and responses to her will in many cases be a mimic-ing of what they saw in their father.
(Note: the wives also are to be setting an example of submission to authority)

E. Honor your mother by <u>providing</u> for her needs (Mt. 15:3-6)

I Tim. 5:4, 8 - (NKJV) *"But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God...But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*

F. Honor your mother by living a life of <u>wisdom</u> not <u>foolishness</u> (Prov. 23:22-<u>25</u>)
Prov. 10:1 - *"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."*

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How you turn out will either give honor or dishonor to your parents, joy or misery.
Nothing is as rewarding to a mother than to see that her children walk in truth.
To be a mother and pour one's life into her children and have them turn out to be law-breaking rebels or Godless heathen is the greatest dishonor a mother can receive!

Prov. 19:26 - *"He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach."*
*"Wasteth"* = to assault (NASV)
*"Chaseth away"* = to drive away; to cause to withdraw or retreat from

CONCLUSION:

If you honor your mother, someday you will find that God's promise of sowing and reaping is true (Gal. 6:7). Your children will honor you!

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