

Biblical Courtship Session #3: The Child's Responsibility to the Parents

by Paul Washer

Honoring our parents is a command from God that has consequences for our relationships with God and others, and it requires us to develop an attitude of looking to them for guidance and wisdom.

Duration: 48:54

Scripture: Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16, Proverbs 1:8-9, Proverbs 22:6, Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20

Topics: "Biblical Courtship"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of taking marriage seriously and finding a partner that God has chosen for us. He encourages listeners to reflect on their past actions and attitudes towards their parents, specifically in terms of honoring and obeying them. The preacher also highlights the significance of seeking parental counsel and humbling oneself before them. The sermon aims to provide a biblical foundation for understanding courtship and the importance of cultivating a godly relationship before marriage.

Transcript

Well, here we are again with our study in biblical courtship. And again, let me just reiterate, this is so important, it really is, because one of the most important institutions in the scriptures and one of the most important things in your life is or is going to be marriage and finding that person that God has for you. And when you find them, to live with them in a way that pleases God, even before marriage, to know how to act, to treat that person, to know how to be careful of your own weaknesses, the youthful lust that is within, all the things that can bring so much damage to your future marriage.

We want to look at those things and we want to have a biblical basis for why we do what we do. Now, when we began a few studies ago, we began talking about plowing a fertile ground for teaching. And that is simply just trying to come to the realization of how desperate our culture is.

It is so far away from God and so far away from the will of God. Now, we don't just sit back like Pharisees and talk about them, but we need to realize that much of what is in our culture has already had a great influence on us. And so we need to realize that apart from God's wisdom, apart from his spirit, his help, there's just no way we're going to know what to do.

And even if we know what to do, we're not going to be able to do it without the work of God's spirit. Now, after we talked about plowing a fertile ground for teaching, we also talked about the importance of parents. To some of you, you probably thought, well, why are they talking about this? You know, it seems like they're talking about a class on how to be a good parent.

Well, what you need to understand is many of us who are now Christians, when we were younger, we were not raised in Christian homes. And I want you to realize that even though that is not an excuse for our ungodliness, it does let us know that we have a tough road ahead of us if we were not raised in a Christian home, because the parents in the scriptures play such a great role. And if our parents did not lead us into the teachings of Christ and demonstrate to us with their life an example of what it means to live for Christ, it's very, very difficult.

I also wanted to teach on parenting a bit, because one of the reasons you're getting married, one of the reasons you're going to court this girl or you're going to be in a relationship with this guy is because you desire to be married and you desire to have children and to raise up a godly heritage to the Lord. And so you needed to know something of what you're getting into. Now, what we're going to talk about, having talked about the parent's responsibility, we're going to talk about the child's responsibility.

And this, again, is extremely, extremely important. Now, you say, well, Brother Paul, I'm in college or I'm even out of the home. I've got my own job.

Why should we be talking about the child's role or responsibility to the parents? Well, let me just put it to you bluntly. There's a good possibility that if you did, you were not a Christian during the early stages of your life or you were not a mature or well-instructed Christian, there's a very good chance that you lived a great portion of your early life in rebellion and that you did not esteem the value of your parents and you did not honor them. You did not obey them.

And that's a bad thing. It's much worse than what you would think. We live in a culture that does not esteem parents.

It does not esteem the old. As a matter of fact, in almost every television program, it's the old people who don't know anything and the young people who must instruct them. And so we live in a culture that just doesn't honor its parents.

And some of you, after you hear this today, you're probably going to need to go back to your parents and ask them to forgive you. And then you're going to have to work at growing in this area in your life to learn, even if you're already out of the house, to learn to honor your parents and to ask their advice. So let's just look at a few things.

First of all, as a young person, even if you're in college or you're in your twenties and you've got a job and you're working, I want you to understand something. Your parents still play a great role in your life and they're still very, very important and you need to learn to honor them. The parents role is ordained by God.

That's what I want you to see. And it is the first law governing man's relationship to man. You know, in the Ten Commandments, it begins with all the responsibilities that a man has before God.

And then it turns from there and it talks about man's responsibility to man. And the first commandment doesn't deal with government or society, but it deals with parents, deals with the family. And let's read in Exodus 20:12.

He says, Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you. Now, without doing just a long term study on this passage, I mean, just taking a glance at where it is located in the Decalogue, where it is located in the Ten Commandments shows us just how important family relationships are to God and just how important it is that children honor their father and mother. Now, you may say, well, my father and mother, they're not believers.

Doesn't matter. Doesn't matter. You should still honor them.

You may have to, as an older person, you may disagree with them. You may even disagree with their lifestyle. You may not even be able to accept all of their counsel because maybe they don't even know the Lord.

But you should still honor them. Now, I want you to think back on as far back as you can remember, you know, when you first remember being in this world and think about your time as a child, think about your time maybe in middle school and high school and then ask yourself, how much did you rely upon your parents' counsel? How often did you humble yourself before your parents? Did you live a life of obedience to your parents or disobedience and rebellion? Now, what I would suggest, I don't want you to come into condemnation or to just fall into despair in this matter, but I want you to take it seriously. I would really suggest that you just sit down for a few hours with maybe the Bible and a sheet of paper and a pencil in front of you and just ask yourself these questions.

How did you in your early life, how did you dishonor your parents? How did you rebel against them? How is it that you did not treat them with honor or esteem their counsel? How is it that maybe you made their life very difficult and almost miserable? Well, you know, you should think about writing those things down and going to the Lord if you've never done this before and ask him to forgive you and to confess your sins that you lived a life in violation to one of his most important commands and one of the commands upon which society itself is founded. And then after you do that, it might be good to go visit your mom and dad. And again, you say, well, they weren't there.

They're not believers, especially so because by humbling yourself before them and asking them to forgive you and confessing your sin, they will see maybe the impact that Jesus Christ has had on your life. But going there also not only to confess your sin and to ask for forgiveness, but also you need to really concern yourself with growing in the Lord and so that you can start honoring them. You can honor them and think about that, you know, take some time, go over that.

And it can be a thing that can really bring some freedom. It can renew your relationship with your parents. It can allow you to start maybe on new ground.

All right. Now, so he says in Exodus 20:12, honor your father and your mother that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you. You know, what's amazing here is he says, honor them, not just obey.

You know, one of the things that I have to tell my children, you know, I say, boys, clean up your room. Well, it's not good enough that they just clean up their room. They should clean up their room with a sense of doing it unto the glory of God, with a sense of doing it to honor their parents and with a sense of joy.

If they do it grudgingly and kind of shrugging their shoulders, they have not obeyed because they have not honored. You see, when the Lord is speaking here about our relationship to our parents, he's going

beyond just mere obedience. I'll do it because I have to.

But he's talking about honor. I will do it, mom and dad, because I esteem you. I appreciate you.

And I want to demonstrate that in my life. Now, he says, honor your father and your mother. Listen, both.

Many times in a family, you know, we'll we'll we'll dot our I's and cross our T's when it comes to our dad, because he knows we know that our dad can really deal with us. And maybe we don't give the honor to our mother that we should. And that is wrong.

And it also represents that it also shows us that our obedience to our father is not because of honor or because of love, but just because he's more powerful than we are. We should honor our father and our mother. Now, young guys, let me share with you something.

If you're more than six or seven years old, your mom should not be making your bed. She should not be cleaning your room and she shouldn't even probably be washing your clothes unless she just wants to do it to show her love for you. I've seen so many young men, even those come back from college and things like that, they lay around the house, they expect their mother to serve them.

That's absolutely preposterous. You need to be taking care of yourself. You need to be doing these things and honor your mother by freeing her from being your slave.

And fathers, now listen to me. I know there's going to be some fathers listening to this. Don't let your wife be the slave to your sons or your daughters when they're old enough themselves to do these things.

I've seen mothers in the name of love and many times in the name of Jesus Christ, wearing themselves out for a bunch of lazy children who can do all those chores themselves. Also, husbands, realize this. The most important relationship that you have in the world on this planet is with your wife.

No one, no one comes between you and your wife and no one dishonors your wife. Every child should know, father, that you love them enough to die for them a thousand times. But every child should know that there are certain things they do not do.

And one of them is dishonor their mother because their mother is your wife. And those who dishonor her dishonor you. Don't permit it.

Now, if you're going to demand this from your children, then there's something else you have to do also, fathers, husbands. You have to esteem your wife. Those children need to see that she is greatly and highly regarded by you.

To the degree that the man in the home respects his wife, so will the children. My little girl, Rowan, she's three years old, so she hasn't heard this lecture yet, but my two boys know that the worst thing they could ever do on this planet, at least in this dispensation of their life, is to dishonor their mother. Because at that point, they are going to know the wrath of their father.

You see, they need to learn this, men, from us. Husbands, they need to learn this from us. Now, he says, honor your father and mother that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

I want to tell you something. There is judgment, the judgment of God upon our country for the way children regard or do not regard their parents today. And I can tell you this, there is discipline even in the true church and there is discipline in the lives of young Christians because they violate this command that is so serious, so very serious.

You know, it's so amazing. We'll do things like tithe and all sorts of things, fulfill all sorts of rules as young Christians, and yet we will miss the weightier matters of the law, which always have to do with relationships, relationships either with God, a relationship with God or a relationship with others. And one of the highest relationships, well, let me put it this way, the highest relationship in your life as a young man or a young woman, if you are not married, is your relationship with your father and your mother.

And you need to honor them. Even when they're wrong, you need to honor them. You need to bless them.

You need to seek to obey them where you can, where it does not violate scripture or conscious. You need to do these things. And what does God say? He will bless it.

There was a sense in which Israel was cast out of the promised land because of their idolatry, because of their immorality. But I want you to realize they were also cast out or even vomited out of the land because of the fact that children did not honor their father and their mother. So it's a very serious thing.

Now, let's let's look at that for a minute out of the New Testament and let's look at Ephesians chapter six, verses one through three. OK, I'm going to read that right now. Children, obey your parents and the Lord for this is right.

Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise so that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth. Now, very important passage. Paul takes what we found in Exodus chapter 20 and he kind of embellishes it.

He adds some things to it and gives us a greater insight into what God is trying to teach us. First of all, children, obey your parents and the Lord for this is right. Now, it's really important that we recognize here.

Children, obey your parents and the Lord. There are some people today, very well-meaning, and I don't want to be disrespectful, but I disagree with them. And they've developed this idea that the father has authority in the home, which is very, very true, has authority over his children.

That is also true. But he has authority over his children even after they they leave the home and they've married and they've started their own family. And and I just want to tell you that that is outside the parameters of Scripture.

Furthermore, I hope that that I have been such a father that I can teach my children in such a way that when they leave my home, they can stand on their own as men over their own families. It doesn't say adults obey your parents and the Lord. It says children obey your parents and the Lord.

Those who have left the home, have married, have begun a new family unit. Well, in a sense, they're autonomous. But now I want us to look at the other side of that.

There are people who young men who leave home for maybe college and and things like that and even go on and get married now. Are they under the rule and authority of their father? No, I do not believe the Bible teaches that. But should they continue to honor and respect their father and esteem their father and

mother? Absolutely, they should.

And even as as an older man before my mother died, my father died when I was very young, when I was 17. But even as a young man and an older man, there were times when I would ask counsel from my mother. Doesn't mean that she dictated the things in my life or she ruled my life or I had to do what she said all the time.

But I wanted to show respect and honor. And I also believe that because she was my mother, that God could speak through her at times. And I want you to see this.

I want you to avoid both extremes. The extreme that says even after you leave the home, your father rules over everything you do. I've even heard cases where men teach that that even after you're married, he rules over what you do in your marriage.

That's absolutely absurd. The other extreme is cutting yourself off from your father and mother and just having nothing to do with them and never asking counsel from them and not continuing to honor them. Both of those things are wrong.

So first of all, let's look at it from a child's point of view. He says, children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Now, the word obey means to listen, to hearken to.

It's like a porter waiting at the door and ready to open it when he hears somebody knock at the door. It means waiting to receive instruction from, waiting to obey. It's an attitude of kind of looking to your parents as a child and saying, what do I do now? This is very important.

And again, we have to avoid some extremes. First of all, children are not born into this world with wisdom. You can see that in the scriptures, but you can just also see that by looking at children.

They do some of the most foolish things imaginable. Now, so if you enter into a realm where you have no wisdom, the best thing to do is find the authority and expert in the matter and just stand there and look at them. And before you make a move, you ask them, what should I do? What should I do? What should I do? Now, children, this is very, very important.

When a child is born, they do not have wisdom. But if they know that, then they can develop an attitude of looking to their father and their mother for counsel. Father and mother, I do not know what I am doing.

I have never been in this situation before. My character has not been developed yet. I am not mature.

So what do you think I should do? Now, even as we grow older, let's say that you're in your late teens and you're a responsible person and you're beginning to think about about possibly marriage and things like that. Have you ever been married before? No. Have you ever picked a wife or a husband before? No, you haven't.

This is your first time. So what? So are you an expert? Have you read all the books? You know, you see, it's something you've never done before. So what should you do? You should have that same attitude of looking to your parents, not that they're going to tell you who you must marry or exactly what you must do, but looking to them saying, Dad, I've never done this before.

You have. Oh, what should I do now? Here's the thing that and fathers, you need to listen to this if you're listening to this tape. When my boys were little and well, they're still little, they're still only nine and seven,

but when they were little, little and I took them out into the woods, whether to go hunting with me or something, a lot of times I held them by the hand.

I did. We'd go through a swamp or wading through things or climbing rocks. I would hold them.

I would watch them. I would care for them. I remember one time my son Evan decided he wanted to jump down on this rock to see this very, very pretty snake.

And I grabbed him right before he left, leaped off the rock. And I'm glad I did because it was a big old copperhead. So when they were little and we went out into the woods, I'd hold their hand.

OK, I don't hold their hand anymore in the woods. OK. And it's not because they've just gotten old enough.

No, because they could be as old as they are now and still be as dumb as they were. The reason I don't hold their hand anymore is because I taught them. I don't need to be there all the time directing every step in the forest for them because I have taught them how to walk through a forest.

And the more I teach them, the less I have to hold their hand. And the more I teach them, hopefully the wisdom that God has given me, the less they're going to have to look to me. I don't want children to be leaving my home that have to call me every day of their life asking my opinion.

I want to raise mature men, mature women who, although they will still honor me, they will ask for advice because we all need advice. We all need counsel. There's victory in a multitude of counselors, but they're not dependent upon me as a little child would be walking through the woods for the first time and needing their father to hold their hand.

And so you see, children should listen to their parents. But we should also be developing our children, teaching our children, giving our children wisdom so that eventually they stand on their own, not just as a son or a daughter, but as a brother and sister in Christ fully mature. Paul's great goal was that Christ be formed in men.

And then as Christ was formed in men, that those men would become mature. And that's the way we should be with our children. Now, young person, when it comes to courtship, when it comes to looking for a mate, when it comes to all these types of decisions, you should honor your parents by asking their counsel.

Now, we're going to talk about this later. There are many authorities in your life that can be a great deal of help to you in this matter of courtship. You need to receive counsel from your parents, receive counsel from the elders at your church, receive counsel from men and women who in the church are noted for their wisdom.

But just let me give you a little bit of a warning here. Just because someone is old doesn't make them wise. There are many.

There's as many old fools as there are young ones. So just because someone's been there and done that and got the T-shirt, it doesn't mean at all that they know what they're doing. We're talking about biblical wisdom.

That's what you want to look for. Now, it says, children, obey your parents. And then it says in the Lord, this is what the Lord wants.

You know, that kind of just silences all questions, doesn't it? Children, obey your parents. Well, why should I obey my parents? Because it's what the Lord wants. Oh, OK.

Enough said. It's his desire. Now, it's really funny.

I mean, every time I teach on something like this, I always have someone in the audience who raises their hand and says, well, what if my parents want me to build a bomb and blow up some building somewhere? And I always ask them, I go, well, when was the last time your parents asked you to do something like that? And they said, never. And I said, well, I guess the question's pretty nonsensical then, isn't it? I mean, we ask questions like that and it just reveals our desire to be rebellious, doesn't it? Our problem isn't with our parents asking us to do something unethical, usually. Our problem is when our parents want us to do something that we just don't want to do.

You see, you're going to have to learn something as a Christian. I am never free, even though I'm probably twice the age of some of you young men who are thinking about marriage. I'm never going to be free from authority.

But here's what you need to understand. I don't want to be. I find that that authority in my life helps me, protects me and has saved me for many dumb things that I could have done.

Now, so why do you obey your parents? It's what the Lord said. It's what the Lord said. Now, it says, children, obey your parents and the Lord for this is right.

Why is it right? Because the Lord said it. You know, ethics sometimes ask the question, you know, why is something, a certain thing right and a certain thing wrong? One of the simplest answers that may seem trite but is actually quite profound is, it's right because God said it was right. It's wrong because God said it was wrong.

It's right because it is conformed to the nature, the attributes and the will of God and it is wrong because it is contrary to God's will and God's nature. You do this because it's right. God knows humanity.

He knows what makes a proper society among humans. He knows what's right and this is right in his eyes and this is what you should do. Now, let me say something here to parents really quick.

You know, anytime I teach on authority or I teach on something like submission, whether it be a wife honoring her husband or children honoring their parents, it's a frightening thing to teach on it. Why? Well, this is the reason. I have met in my life so many self-centered, power-hungry, legalistic husbands and fathers who love to use these types of teachings in order just to literally enslave their wives and children and their spirit, their heart, everything about them is totally contrary, totally contrary to the lordship of Jesus Christ, his compassion, his love, his mercy.

When we talk about, you know, a certain person should submit to another person and that some persons have been given authority, those who have been given authority ought to have great fear because to whom much is given, much is required. If you have been given a wife, know that she is a daughter of God and God will deal with you one day. If you have been harsh with her, if you have used her for your own promotion, God will deal with you.

And know this, if you're a father, your children are to obey you. But if you have been harsh, manipulative, coercive, managing everything in your home just by sheer power, God will deal with you one day and you

need to be afraid. Repent now.

Reconcile yourself with your enemy before you go to court because you will not get out of there until you've paid the very last cent. Those who have authority of any kind, whether it's in the family, in the church, they ought to exercise that authority like a servant. That authority ought to cost them and not benefit them.

They ought to be as Jesus Christ who knowing that he had all authority, knowing where he had come from and where he was going, he wrapped himself in a towel and he washed feet. Again, I tell you what, I have seen men use this hard faced, religious, legalistic, there's just not enough words to describe these types of men. They're so abusive and so manipulative and they use the scriptures to manipulate their wives and their children and it's horrible.

And they ought to be greatly afraid. So if we've been given authority and young men, one day when you marry, you know, you may be all about that passage where wives ought to submit to their husbands. And it's true.

It's in the scriptures. But you are to love your wife as Christ loved the church. Never forget, the one you marry is God's daughter.

Guys, I'll probably tell you this a million times before this is over, but young men, you need to understand something. You could walk up to me, make a fist, and I mean just roundhouse me and hit me right in the jaw as hard as you can. And I'll probably just get up.

And if I'm really spiritual that day, I'll pray for you. You hurt my little daughter. It'd be better that a mama grizzly bear got a hold of you than me.

There's hardly anything more important to a dad than his little daughter. You're going to marry one of God's daughters. And if I, being evil, can love my daughter enough to take on a whole army to protect her, you need to be afraid.

You need to treat that girl like she was made of glass because her father is in heaven. And he knows how to deal with young bucks like you. He really does.

So be careful. Take that as a warning, okay? Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor your father and mother.

Again, let me say this because it's just so important. Esteem them. Value them and value what they have done for you.

And one of the best ways to show your father honor and to demonstrate to him that you esteem him is by asking his counsel, by asking his counsel. And again, that goes totally against our culture, doesn't it? I mean, it goes totally against our culture. It's unbelievable that in almost every movie out of Hollywood, the parents are idiots.

The father's the bigger idiot. If anybody in the parent, the two parents have wisdom, it's the mother. It's hardly ever the father.

And the children are the ones who, in the end, are right and have to teach their parents the right way. That is not the way reality is. And it's absolutely absurd because it's basically saying that young people, well,

the scriptures teach that young people have very little wisdom and as they grow older, should grow in wisdom.

Hollywood teaches us that you're born with wisdom and then as you grow older and finally as you become a parent, you become a fool. You lose the wisdom that you start out with. It's illogical.

Makes no sense whatsoever. But it's just another case of our society being turned over to its own foolishness. So esteem your father and your mother.

Esteem them. Now, it says, honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise so that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth. It really is.

And that shows how important, again, this commandment is. It's the first commandment God gives with promise. You know, years ago when I was in seminary, the privilege of working with several guys in a ministry called the Beautiful Feet Street Ministry.

And I wasn't a leader there or anything, but I worked there for three years, helping in the way that I could. And even for a while, lived down there at the mission with all the guys. And one day I just thought, you know, I'm just going to walk around and ask the different guys who were on the street, drugs, alcohol, all sorts of things.

Ask them, you know, where do you think that your rebellion began? I mean, where did all these problems start? And, you know, every one of them said, with my family, with my family. Now, some of them, mark you, some of them had horrible families, horrible fathers, horrible mothers. But most of them went back to saying, I didn't listen to my father or my mother.

I did not obey. I bucked up against their authority and then the authority of my teachers and then the authority of the law. And here I am today.

And this is true. It is a commandment that is followed by a promise. God honors young men and young women who honor their father and their mother.

A blessed life without the fear of judgment or without the fear of discipline. And you need to take that to heart, especially when you're thinking about one of the greatest decisions in your entire life. And that is, who are you going to marry? You should honor your parents in this matter because a blessing accompanies that.

Now, let's talk about moving beyond obedience to honor. We've been talking about honor quite a bit, but let's talk about moving beyond obedience to honor. Now, let's listen to a passage in Leviticus 19:32.

It says, You shall rise up before the gray-headed and honor the aged and you shall revere your God. I am the Lord. This has been lost in our culture.

We do not honor the aged. As a matter of fact, we make fun of them or we put them away somewhere where they can't bother anyone. Young men, you should learn to honor the aged.

Learn to honor men that are above you, that are beyond you, that are older than you. To honor older women. To honor.

You know, I'm pretty laid back. I'm just probably not the most cultured person you've ever met in your life. I feel more at home out in the woods than just about anywhere and I don't care much for titles.

But young men, you shouldn't walk up to even me and just say, hey Paul, I've been called of the Lord to minister. At least say something like brother Paul or to your pastor, you know, Pastor Dave, Pastor Rick, to your father. Don't just say yeah and this and that to him.

Honor him with proper speech. When your mother walks in the room, honor her. When your father walks in the room, honor him.

I know nobody does this anymore, but you should. You should. You know, sometimes it's so funny.

I'll meet, you know, some young guy who maybe shook hands with John MacArthur or John Piper or something like that, you know, and they'll tell me, yes, I met John last week. And I go, you met who? They go, well, you know, I met John last week and talked to him. And I go, John MacArthur? And I had a kid go, yeah, yeah, I was talking to John.

And I said, you know what? I would never call him John. I would call him pastor or doctor, but I wouldn't use that kind of language. And I'm a lot older than you, son.

It's not because some men are greater than others. It's just a sign of honor, of respect. Be very careful, young men.

All the institutions in your culture have been torn down. All the places of honor have been defiled. You've been taught to honor and respect no one.

Well, let me just tell you something. If you do not render honor to whom honor is due, then one day if honor is due you, none will be given. None will be given.

Learn to honor people, especially people in whom God has worked in an unusual way. Honor your father. Honor your mother.

Honor your elders, your pastor. Honor deacons. Honor men and women of great wisdom in your church.

Honor even officials, even those elected officials that you may not agree with. Honor them. Learn to do that.

Honor the office if you cannot necessarily honor the person. I would suggest to you young men it would be very healthy if maybe you went through Scripture and studied some of these passages about honoring the aged, about humbling yourself before men and women who know more than you do. I tell you what, it'll bring great blessing in your life and it'll also deliver you from many, many foolish decisions that you will make on your own.

Now, I want us to look at some divine penalties for those who just have no consideration for the authorities and the authority structure that God has put in place here on this planet. I want to look at Jude 1.6. It's a passage that's kind of very difficult to interpret, but I think we can pull some good truth out of it. It's in Jude 1.6. And angels who did not keep their own domain, keep or stay within their own position of authority, but abandoned their proper abode, he has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

There is a sense in which one of the greatest ways in which we honor God is by honoring the authorities over us and by submitting to God's providence in our life. Now, here we have a case where we don't know exactly what's going on, but it appears that the angels were not content with the place that God had given them in the created order. They were not content to be what they were made to be.

They were not content to submit to God's will for their existence, and they broke free from it. And because of it, there was great, great judgment. Now, God has given us government.

Now, many times we must speak against abuses of the government, immoralities of the government, but we should always do so with honor. And those who have been given place in government, we should honor them even though we disagree with them. And then we have the law, which no man is above the law.

So we know that if we violate the authority of the laws in our own country, that there's going to be judgment for it, whether it's a fine or imprisonment. Now, God has also given authorities in the church. There are elders and there are deacons.

Then there are just the wise men, men who are wise and women who are wise in the congregation. And then we go on from that. And in the family, there is authority.

God has made the man to be head of his household. Now, again, that's not a tyrant. He doesn't rule as Caesar does, but he administers Christ's word and Christ's grace as Christ ministered to his people on the day that he washed their feet.

But there is an authority in the home. If you have a father or a mother, they are an authority in your life. Even after you leave the home, they are for counsel and they are to be honored and esteemed.

Do not break out of that. Do not try to free yourself from it, but try to benefit from what God has given you. Now, Deuteronomy 21, 18 through 21.

If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them. Then his father and mother shall seize him and bring him out to the elders of the city at the gateway of his hometown. They shall say to the elders of his city, this son of ours is stubborn and rebellious.

He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard. Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death, so you shall remove the evil from your midst and all Israel will hear of it and fear.

Now, this was a law given to the nation of Israel. Now, you say, well, why doesn't the church do that today? Well, first of all, most of you young men ought to be glad the church doesn't do this today because you would probably be dead. But here's what you need to understand about the New Covenant.

You know, in the Old Covenant, if a man discovered that his wife or even his best friend was worshiping another God, was worshiping another God, then he should tell the priest, he should tell the authorities, he should expose them and they should be stoned. Now, in the New Covenant, if a man, a brother in the church, a couple in the church, the man discovers that his wife has started to entertain ideas of joining a cult and is turning away from Christ, he will tell the congregation not so that they will stone her, but so that they will pray for her and weep over her, intercede on her behalf and try to admonish her with love to return to Christ. That's one of the great differences between the dispensation of Israel and what we have

today in the church.

Now, we do not take children out and stone them or beat them or put them on public trial, but here's something that you need to see. Rebellion against parents is just as evil today as it was then. And rebellion against parents is just as deserving of death today as it was then.

It is a horrible crime against our parents, against society, and against God. It is. And you need to take that to heart.

It's not something to laugh about. You know, sometimes we have sins that we consider very, very bad and others that are just acceptable because they're so common. Well, we live in a culture in which children no longer honor their parents and they're rebellious against their parents and their parents do not know what to do with them.

Do not think that you've escaped that influence. That tendency is in you. But if it manifests itself in your actions, in your attitudes, you need to realize that the sin that you have committed is a gross immorality against God.

And you need to ask God to forgive you and you need to ask your parents to forgive you and you need to seek restoration and you need to seek to grow in the Lord that you may learn to be a proper Christian, to be Christlike and to honor the authorities that God has placed over you. Now, again, we've gone through another session and you've said, when are we going to get to biblical courtship? Well, in the next session, we're going to talk a bit about the heresy of recreational dating. And so I guess we're going to move into talking more about courtship and dating and relationships.

But I wanted to lay this foundation because it is so very important. Now, remember this. Just because you learn a few things about the proper way to behave yourself with regard to the opposite sex, it doesn't make you a godly man or a godly woman.

You must grow in all aspects of the Christian faith. And remember, it's not so much about principles in your head as it is a Christlike character. And you cannot get that from studying just one subject.

You must study the person and the work of Christ, the revelation of God in Christ and seek to be like Christ. Because your greatest problem in all your relationships, your greatest problem in everything is that and my greatest problem is that we're just not like Jesus. So that's the goal, not just to learn a few principles, but to become like Christ.

All right. Well, God bless you. And I hope that the Lord will prosper you in all things according to his will.

God bless. Please visit our website at heartcrymissionary.com. There you will find information about the ministry, our purpose, beliefs and methodologies and extensive information about the missionaries we are privileged to serve.

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