



Sermon  
Rev. Lang Yang

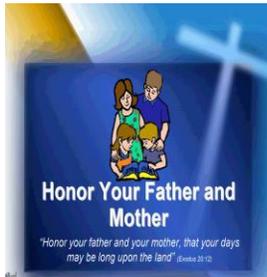
**“4<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Honor Your Father and Mother”**

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Our Savior Lutheran Church – Lansing, MI  
7-26-15 and 7-27-15

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

**Exodus 20:12** *“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”* This is the Word of God. (Cross Reference – Mark 14:1, Luke 22:1, Acts 12:4, Exodus 11:10; 12:2, Numbers 9:5; 28:16, 1 Samuel 2:27, 2 Chronicles 35:17, Ezekiel 45:21, Ephesians 6:1-3)

Illustration “Honor your Parent” (Show Honor your Father and Mother)



Today, It is our 4<sup>th</sup> week studying God’s 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments. We will look at the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment which it is to honor our father and mother. God gave us parents so they could teach and provide for us physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and that parents should raise their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Because of the important role parents play in our lives, Luther reminds us *“to honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.”* As you sit here today, I want you to think of your own father and mother. How have you been honoring them?

God’s word today teaches us that God’s placed a high value of honoring our father and mother at home and that much of what we become in life is influenced by the early years and how we respond to our parents authority. This commandment speaks to both children and parents and to society as a whole.

- I. The first obligation is that children should honor their parents. How do you honor your father and mother? Do you only honor them once a year when it’s time for Mother’s Day or Father’s Day? Or do you honor them always and all of your life? We as children have to learn to first respect of our parents because of their position over us. Leviticus write, *“Each of you must respect your mother and father....”* (Leviticus 19:3) You should show respect with your words, with your body gestures and with your attitude when you are in their presence and also when you are not. (Show greeting to parent)



Many cultural showing respect to their parents by putting their hands together and raise it up with a bow, bowing down by touching the parent or elders foot or simply jus hugging your parents. This is a sign of showing respect and honoring them. (Show Proverbs 23:26)



To honor your father and mother is by loving them as a person. The word honor means “to give them the highest respect and esteem” because they are your parents. Honor goes beyond just a simple respect because of their position but it extends to the heart. The book of Proverbs write, “My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways.” (Proverbs 23:26) and in Proverbs chapter 31 talk about children rising in the morning and blessed there mother. “Her children arise and call her blessed....” (Proverbs 31:28) The

last book of the Old Testament said, “He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents ...” (Malachi 4:5-6) Respecting and loving a person is important. For example if your father is drunk all the time, you may not be able to respect for the drunkenness but you will still have to respect for the position as being your father and also love him regardless of his faults. Even though this may be hard for you to do, but because you are a child of God, you still have to love and forgive those who have hurt you. Let us watch a short video that was conducted by Pastor Eric Hall at St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg, West Virginia how children response to honor their father and mother (Show video of Honor Your Father and Mother)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfTw9tMTBC8>



Honor Your Father Mother - YouTube 3.29 Min.mp4

(Show bonds between children and parent)



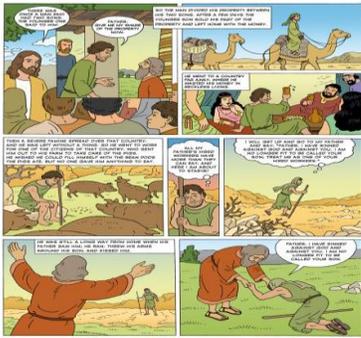
I wonder if we realize the strength of the bond that exists between father and son, between mother and daughter? Do we understand that the things that have happened in our families, will imprint to the next generation with a story, with an understanding of life, and shapes the future for better or for worse? Certainly our heavenly Father understands how important the parent - child relationship is. After all, God is the one who designed it! God told Adam and Eve to “be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.” (Genesis 1:28)

- II. So parenthood is more about providing the good soil for the seed to sprout than to provide the rules and demands to make it grow into the tree or shrub that we want it to grow into, so we can harvest what we want to harvest. (Show families)



And, like the farmer, we don't know how the growth happens until one day we are jolted to reality when an aunt or a cousin who hasn't seen our family for a while, is astonished at what our children are becoming. Children are not only to honor

their parents but parents have an obligation to help their children to observed and follow this commandment. Even realizing that as parents we need to provide the good nurturing soil, and we know that we aren't in control, but we are often concerned about the lack of success which our efforts for our children. How do we provide this good soil in our families that will nurture each member and provide the growth? St. Paul letter to the Ephesians in our Epistle reading said, *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."* (Ephesians 6:1) We as children, it's our aim to please not only our parents but God in all our life, but pleasing God is not just something for our minds and lives, our literal homes must also be a place, an arena in which we not only discipline our children but also seek to instruct them in God's way and to please God. **(Picture of the prodigal son)**



But most of us play the part of a rebellious son or daughter like the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32, at some time in our lives. Our relationship with our heavenly father is not much different than our relationship with our earthly father. Just as we disobey our parents, we also disobey God. Just as we ignore father's advice and counsel, we ignore the counsel of the Holy Scripture. And just as our earthly father understands our youthful rebellion, our heavenly father eagerly forgives the sins of our youth. When we realize how bad our sins are, we need to come to repentance. Just like

the prodigal son came to his senses, he came to his father and said, *"Father, I have sinned against you and against heaven."* (Luke 15:18) He confessed. We go through life and blame others for our problem but we need to come to sense and repent of the sin that we have commit by not honoring our heavenly Father. A proper confession for every Christian should say: *"Heavenly father, I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. I am not worthy of the least of your mercies."*

- III. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, we break the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment when we don't honor our parent and those who are in authority. God's Word said, *"Cursed is anyone who dishonors their father or mother."* Then all the people shall say, *"Amen!"* (Deuteronomy 27:16) This mean that if children dishonor their parent, it bring shame and dishonor to the family. You see how harsh the punishment for the children that dishonor their parent in the Old Testament Law. God's Word said, *"If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. They shall say to the elders, '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 town are to stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid."* (Deuteronomy 21:18-21) Children, in today society you will not be stone to death for disobedience to your parents but you still break the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment. So honor your parents. **(Show picture of soldier saluting the President)**



Honor is kind of like the President of the United States arrives in "Air Force One." At the bottom of the steps stands a two soldier in full uniform. As the President walks by, what does the soldier do? He stands "at attention and

salutes out of honor for the office of President.” (Show pledge and bowing)



As the American Flag passes by at a parade what does the crowd do? They stand up, take off their hats and put their hands over their hearts out of honor for their country. You fly to Japan for an international business trip. As you are introduced to the one you will be doing business with, what do you do? You bow, as is their custom, out of honor for that person.

(Show percentage of church attendance)



Both Mom and Dad attend church regularly, 72 percent of their children remain faithful in attendance. If only Dad attends regularly, 55 percent remain faithful. If only Mom attends regularly, 15 percent remain faithful. If neither attend regularly, only 6 percent remain faithful. (Warren Mueller, Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 3)

Parent, since children are given respect and honor to you, are you honoring them by instruct them in God’s way? A study once disclosed that if both Mom and Dad attend church regularly, 72 percent of their children remain faithful in attendance. If only Dad attends regularly, 55 percent remain faithful. If only Mom attends regularly, 15 percent remain faithful. If neither attend regularly, only 6 percent remain faithful. (Warren Mueller, Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 3)

We honor our earthly parent but our heavenly Father honor us by sacrifice His only Son. We cannot keep the Ten Commandments in our own strength. We need God’s help to keep His Commandments, and we need God’s forgiveness for where we have failed. Thanks be to God that He has made both help and forgiveness through His Son Jesus Christ.

(Show God’s welcoming us to His arm)



Christ love for us is so great that He was willing to pay any price to redeem his son and daughter. Our heavenly father promise to forgive us and welcome us back to his open arms. When we come to him in humble and repentance, He doesn’t scold us. He just welcomes us back into his kingdom of grace with an open arm. Our heavenly Father loves us enough to let us learn from our mistakes. He loves us and welcomes us back in the name of His Son. He see perfection, blameless, and holiness which we possess thru faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When you honor your father and mother, you honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

# Children Message

## 4 Ways to Honor Your Parents

Credits: [http://www.slideshare.net/Deepakpati/4-ways-to-honor-our-parents?from\\_action=save](http://www.slideshare.net/Deepakpati/4-ways-to-honor-our-parents?from_action=save)

**Ephesians 6:1-3** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- **3** "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Show slide 1



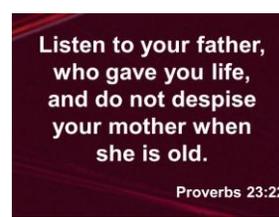
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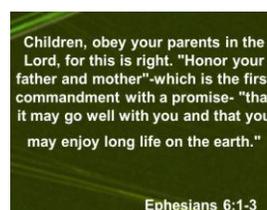
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Show slide 11



Let's Pray: Dear Jesus .....