



Life Principles Notes™

How Do You Honor Your Mother?

Summary:

Most of the Ten Commandments begin the same way: “You shall not.”

One, however, is stated with a positive action: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you” (Exodus 20:12).

When we think specifically of a mother’s work, we realize what an awesome task she has. She is worthy of all the honor we can give her. But what does it mean to honor someone? Most of us would

say we love our mother, but are we truly honoring her? What kinds of action should we be taking to accomplish that?

Let’s recognize that some people have difficult family situations. There are many people who carry anger toward their parents for one reason or another. The Word of God, however, offers no exceptions when it commands us to honor the one who brought us into this world.

Key Passage: [Exodus 20:12](#)

Scriptural Principles:

1 Love your mother unconditionally.

The first act of honor for our mothers is to love them unconditionally. No matter what a parent may have done, we owe them our love. If she has disappointed us in some way, we must remember that she has had one of life’s most difficult jobs. We love her with grace in the same way that God has loved us. Honor is more than obedience; it is having reverence for someone. Therefore we honor her simply for who she is.

2 Cherish your mother affectionately.

Second, we should show her our love with affection. When we think of all she has done for us, bringing us into the world, feeding us, and teaching us so many things, we should be very grateful for her. We should have deep affection for someone so special to our past and our upbringing. How can a loving child be aloof or distant toward his or her mother? We should give them a hug and kiss whenever we see them, as a token of our love for them. A good hug is worth more than any gift you could ever buy her.

3 Understand your mother sympathetically.

Mothers are no more perfect than anyone else, but they work harder and more faithfully than anyone you know. Think of all the things your mother has done for you. She is a cook, a maid, a chauffer, a teacher, and many other things, yet godly mothers rarely complain. When we think of all her tasks, we can go the extra mile in being understanding and sympathetic when it comes to her shortcomings. We need to be expressive about honoring our mother and telling her just how wonderful she is.

4 Listen to your mother attentively.

Not only must we understand, but we must listen. Everyone needs to know their family loves them enough to hear them out. After all, our mothers are wonderful in the way they listen to us. When it comes time for

her to express her own feelings, are we giving her our undivided attention? We need to realize that our mothers grow in wisdom as they age. They have so many important insights to share with us, yet we are often too busy to stop and listen. We can't afford to miss the wisdom that God gives us through our mothers.

5 Help your mother cheerfully.

It should be a tremendous joy in lending our mothers a helping hand. They are the hardest workers around, and they need our help. Parents today struggle to teach obedience to their children, but that discipline is essential to life. Every child must learn to obey his or her parents, and to do so respectfully, because withholding respect from our parents is a serious sin before God.

6 Remember your mother gratefully.

Many of us remember our mothers on Mother's Day, but our job is to remember her every other day of the year as well. They have earned our gratitude, and that gratitude should be constant. Sometimes we need only give her a call or a short visit. Mothers are grateful to know we've been thinking about them. How can we forget someone who brought us into the world? God gave us to one another, parents and children, for a reason. We should remember them, and cultivate this relationship by telling our mothers we love them.

7 Provide for your mother generously.

When we were children and too young to care for ourselves, our mothers provided for our every need. Likewise, we should provide for our mothers. Your mother may need a better place to live. She may need financial support. She may even need her children to share the Gospel with her. It doesn't make any difference whether we are angry toward them; we are commanded to give them honor.

8 Care for your mother kindly.

Children begin to withdraw as they build their own lives. The longer our parents live, however, the more they need us. We treat them kindly by hugging them, telling them how much we love them, and finding large and small ways to serve them. It is a terrible sin for a person to abandon his or her parents. If they reside in a care facility, they need our attention and affection more than ever. God loves us when we are healthy or sick, young or old, and we must love our mothers accordingly.

9 Treat your mother nobly.

How can we treat someone nobly? We can ask the Lord Jesus Christ into our lives, surrender ourselves to Him, and walk in His will, bearing fruit for His kingdom. A godly mother will say that there is no greater way we can honor her. She takes great pride in watching her children live holy, God-honoring lives.

10 Pray for and with your mother.

When was the last time you prayed for or with your mother? Godly mothers teach us to pray by example. They talk comfortably with God in our presence. They bring their requests before Him, and we see how God honors their requests. Therefore we honor our mothers when we pray with them. Ask her what prayer requests she has today, see if she would like to pray together.

Conclusion:

This issue of honoring our mothers is not so difficult. It is a simple command from God to love someone who has first loved us. Where would you or I be without years of patient, tireless work on our behalf by a loving mother?

We are grateful for this amazing gift from God—the gift of our mothers. I pray that the

Spirit of God will fill your heart today with powerful emotions of gratitude, respect, and affection for your mother. I pray that if negative feelings are a barrier between you, God will help you restore the love and respect of one of life's most fulfilling relationships. 🙏

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