

# 10 Words of Grace. A Study of the Ten Commandments.

Week #6: Exodus 20. Honouring Parents.

October 21, 2018

If you asked your neighbor what they thought of the 10 Commandments, you would probably get two responses. The first is that they are generally a good set of rules to follow. The second, however, would be that they have little if any idea of what the Commandments specifically say - people generally know they allude to 'the golden rule', but really don't know much more than that.

Most of us don't think about the Commandments much anymore ... if we're honest, we might say that they make us feel a bit guilty about our behavior. This fall, however, I want to challenge us to look at them *not* as a set of guilt-inducing Commands, but rather as words of grace from our loving Father in Heaven. Let's learn to see them as a beautiful mountain range that stands vigil over us generation after generation. And let us more importantly see that they point us carefully to God's grace poured out in Jesus Christ. *The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.* (Galatians 3:24).

## Questions: #5 - Honouring Parents.

1. What's it like being a parent? What are the challenges you have faced and the joys you have experienced? What has parenting revealed to you about your parents?
2. Ken spoke about the stages of honouring our parents, and that giving them honour has a lot to do with how they have practiced *positional authority* and *moral authority*, and how I am practicing it now, too.
  - We already talked about these a couple of weeks ago, but let's look at them again in the context of this new commandment.
    - How did your parents practiced positional & moral authority well and not so well?
    - How about you - have you been careful or careless with your children?
3. Parents have a responsibility to teach children to trust & obey them ... so that their children will trust & obey God, too. To do this, three things are necessary: *instruction, serving & discipline*.
  - Instruction. What are the three most important things that your parents taught you?
  - Serving. How did your parents serve you? How have you thanked them for their service?
  - Discipline. What did discipline look like in your home? Was it effective ... how so?
4. Adolescents learn to discern and practice wisdom by observing their parent's relationships with Jesus, each other and their friends.
  - How have your parent's relationships helped prepare you to discern and practice wisdom?
5. Ken said that the final stage - *Caring* - is the longest and most difficult one.
  - How are you caring for your parents - emotionally, relationally, physically, financially?
6. No parent is perfect, and some have abused and badly wounded their children, which can make honouring them difficult.
  - Every parent needs to be forgiven for their human failings. Have you forgiven your parents?
  - If you need help to do this, seek out those you trust to help you. And pray for God's supernatural strength, found in the Cross of Jesus, our Lord.
  - Forgiveness is freedom to love as God loves us. When you can pray "Father, provide your best for my parents", you are well on your way to forgiving them. What are you praying for in your parent's lives today?