

2003 Series on The Family

During the month of January, we are studying the following three lessons on the Family.

1. **Origin of the Family**
2. **Parent's Responsibility to Children**
3. **Children's Responsibility to Parents**

Lesson #3 Children's Responsibility to Parents

INTRODUCTION:

Children's responsibility to parents was established in the Fifth Commandment of the Mosaic Law as part of divine institution of the family (DI#3).

"Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." (Exo.20:12; Deut.5:16)

Paul described it as the first command with promise. "Honor your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise – *'that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.'*" (Eph.6:2-3)

Note Paul's interpretation in Italics. Paul explained it in the context of the Christian family because the Fifth Commandment is relevant in America today. It explains Children's responsibility to Parents as part of the modern family (DI#3).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of CHILDREN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PARENTS. We will also study SIX laws of divine establishment regarding children's responsibility to parents.

1. **Jesus taught that children were responsible for parental care under the fifth commandment regarding DI#3 (Matt.15:1-9; Mark 7:5-13).**

"For God said, 'Honor your father and mother, and He who speaks evil of his father and mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'whoever shall say to his father or mother, anything of mine you **might have been helped** by has been given to God.' He is not to honor his father or his mother. And thus you invalidate the word of God for the sake of your tradition." (Matt.15:4-6)

The Fifth Commandment establishes the honor code of the children's responsibility to parents (DI#3).

2. **Paul also taught this doctrinal concept to the Christian Church (Eph.6:1-4; Col.3:20).**

God designed DI#3 with laws of divine establishment to give stability and continuity to communal life of society.

“Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.” (Eph.6:2-3)

This is a promise given to adult children who honor their parents.

3. Jesus exposed Satan’s assault on DI#3 regarding Children’s responsibility to Parents (Matt.15:1-9; Mark 7:5-13).

Jesus was warning the church that Satan is willing to take the fight inside the church family.

Note these four factors taken from Mark 7:5-13 (Isa.29:13).

- Lip service but not Lord service (6)
- Vain worship from false teaching (7)
- Neglect of commandment of God because of tradition of men (8-9)
- Dishonor God by dishonoring parents (10-13/ Corban – given to God)

Corban taught that an adult child could be justified in not financially supporting his aging parents by giving his money to religious or good deeds.

“He who robs his father or his mother, and says it is not a transgression, is the companion of a man who destroys (criminal mentality).” (Prov.28:24)

4. There has been a continuous decline in the family since the industrial age of America. We have not believed that money is the root of all sorts of evil (1 Tim.6:7-10).

As a nation, we have shirked our responsibility of honor in all of the divine institutions due to evil thinking (Rev.20: 7-8; 2 Cor.2: 11; 1 John 5:19).

The nation (DI#4) should establish policies that encourage families to take care of families (Rom.13: 3). The story of Ruth is an example of this doctrine.

A FAMILY’S WELFARE SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT ON THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS. The government is not our parent, not even our big brother (Rom.13:3-4).

The government and the Church are responsible to provide for widows and orphans who have no family to support them (James 1:27; Psa.146:9; 1 Tim.5:4-16; Matt.23:14).

5. There are SIX laws of divine establishment regarding Children’s Responsibility to Parents.

- Obey (Hupakouo/ hear and obey instructions) parents while living under their authority (Eph.6:1; Col.3:20). “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this right.” (Eph.6:1)
- Honor (timaos/ respect position) parents while living as adults outside their authority (Eph.6:2-3; 1 Pet.2:17). This has a divine promise connected with it while living as adult children outside their authority (Eph.6:2-3; 1 Pet.2:17). This has a divine promise connected with it
- Disobedience and dishonor will bring divine discipline (Mark 7:10).

- Financial support whenever necessary (Mark 7:1-10/ Corban).
- Personal care of aging parents and grandparents (James 1:27; 1 Tim.5:4-8; Prov.13:22).
- Meeting the spiritual needs of the aging parents and grandparents (2 Tim.1:5; 3:14-15; Prov.16:6; 22:6; 31:28-31; Psa.78:3-5). [The story of Ruth is an example of these six principles.]