

HONOR YOUR PARENTS

**Biblical guide to restoring respect and unity
between generations**

Vasile Filat

Chişinău, 2025

Copyright © 2025 Vasile Filat

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the author. For information, send requests to vasile.filat@moldovacrestina.md.

Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the New American Standard Bible.

Originally published in Romanian as *Cinstește părinții*

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Introduction	5
Why should you honor your parents? The right motivation.	7
How did our Lord Jesus Christ honor His parents?	15
What are the limits of obedience to parents?	23
How to care for your parents	31
What are the consequences of disobeying parents?	39
Honoring your parents in their old age and final days	49
How to honor a parent who has morally and spiritually declined	57
Honoring your parents after they pass away	65
Resolving conflicts with parents	73
Conclusion	83

Introduction

Honoring parents is the first of the Ten Commandments that refers to our relationships with people. When someone doesn't learn to honor their parents, they will find it extremely difficult to respect any authority or practice submission. This fundamental teaching is the key to a long, happy, and blessed life on earth.

While we engage in many activities—school, home life, music, sports, and more—we often neglect teaching children what matters most: honoring their parents. Most adults, when being honest, admit they haven't fully grasped the deep meaning of this commandment.

Therefore, I wrote this course to be taught in families, camps, churches, sports clubs, and other venues. Implementing it in school curricula would provide significant benefits.

Most biblical texts are already included in the course, though you'll need to keep your Bible at hand during study. I encourage you to write down all answers in the reserved spaces. Even if you never review what you've written, the act of writing itself helps you understand, memorize, and reflect on these important truths. This practice will develop biblical thinking, and when life situations arise that require these teachings, they will return to mind as the Holy Spirit guides you to act correctly.

Parents who study this course alongside their children will benefit tremendously. Understanding and applying these teachings will bring happiness to both us and those around us, transforming society for the better. May God help us!

Why should you honor your parents? The right motivation.

Honoring parents is a fundamental condition for a happy and long life on earth. In our era, particularly in the Western world, parents often don't receive the respect and obedience God requires. While the causes are numerous, the effects are severe—impacting children, parents, and grandparents alike. These effects perpetuate and intensify across generations in a vicious cycle. Sadly, this conformity to this age has influenced many Christians' thinking, leading them to face the same consequences. In this lesson, we will explore the proper motivation every child should have for honoring their parents.

1. Carefully read the fifth commandment from the Ten Commandments, circle all mentions of parents, and underline how children should act toward them.

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.

2. What does the commandment to honor parents involve?

3. What should be children's motivation for obeying this commandment?

4. Read the biblical texts below and circle all references to parents. Underline the words and phrases that describe how children should relate to their parents. After each text, write down what you learned about honoring parents.

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 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

Proverbs 1:8-9 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; 9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your neck.

Proverbs 3:1-2 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; 2 For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

Proverbs 4:20-22 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.

Mark 7:5-13 The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, „Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?“ 6 And He said to them, „Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‚THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 7 ‚BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.‘ 8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.“ 9 He was also saying to them, „You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, ‚HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER‘; and, ‚HE WHO SPEAKS

EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH'; 11 but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

5. Based on the studied texts, answer the following questions:
 - a. How does God define honoring parents?

b. What should be the right motivation for every child to honor their parents?

c. What wrong motives might children have when creating an appearance of honoring parents?

d. What consequences can these wrong motives bring? When and how will they manifest?

PERSONAL ANALYSIS AND APPLICATION:

1. How do you evaluate your current level of happiness? Describe the quality of your life according to the studied biblical texts.

2. What is the connection between your quality of life and how you honor your parents?

3. Do you observe differences in how you honor your mother versus your father? What are these differences, and what underlying reasons cause you to treat them differently?

4. How do your parents characterize your behavior toward them? What leads them to such conclusions?

5. What is the motivation behind your behavior toward your parents? Do you see improper aspects in this motivation? What changes are needed and how do you plan to implement them?

6. Invite your parents to share a meal together and, during the conversation, ask them which of your actions made them feel most respected and valued, and what cherished memories they have of your childhood. Then, share with them your own treasured memories of the time you spent together.