

The Fifth Commandment in Proverbs

I. Honor your father and mother by listening to their instruction.

- 1:8-9: Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.
- 13:1: A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
- 15:5: A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.
- 19:27: Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

II. Honor your father and mother through wisdom.

- 10:1: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.
- 15:20: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.
- 17:21: He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.
- 17:25: A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.
- 19:13: A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.
- 23:22-25: Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.
- 27:11: Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me.

Honor Parents Through Wisdom of Speech:

- 23:15-16: My son, if your heart is wise, my heart too will be glad. My inmost being will exult when your lips speak what is right.

Honor Parents Through Wisdom in Choice of Friends:

- 23:19-20: Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way. Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, . . .
- 28:7: The one who keeps the law is a son with understanding, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.
- 29:3: He who loves wisdom makes his father glad, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

Honor Parents Through Wisdom in Stewardship:

- 10:5: He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.
- 28:24: Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, "That is no transgression," is a companion to a man who destroys.

III. Honor your father and mother for your own sake.

Honoring Parents Brings Life:

- 3:1-2: My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.
- 4:10: Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many.
- 4:20-22: My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

Honoring Parents Brings Wisdom:

- 2:1-5: My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
- 4:1-2: Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.
- 5:1-2: My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.
- 6:20-24: My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.
- 7:1-5: My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call insight your intimate friend, to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words.

Dishonouring Parents Brings Death:

- 19:26: He who does violence to his father and chases away his mother is a son who brings shame and reproach
- 20:20: If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.
- 30:11-14: There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers. There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth. There are those—how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift! There are those whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mankind.
- 30:17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.