

According to Exodus 20:12 the Fifth Commandment says: *“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”*

What is the order of this commandment?

This is a good and wise commandment because honoring our father and mother is essential for the stability and health of our whole society.

When the youngest remain in constant rebellion with their elders discarding many of their recommendations, suggestions, and warnings, time will play against them. This is why the commandment ends in the following way: *“... that thy days may be long upon the land...”* implying that many times due to the disobedience of children, some have had to pay a high price in life for having chosen the wrong way.

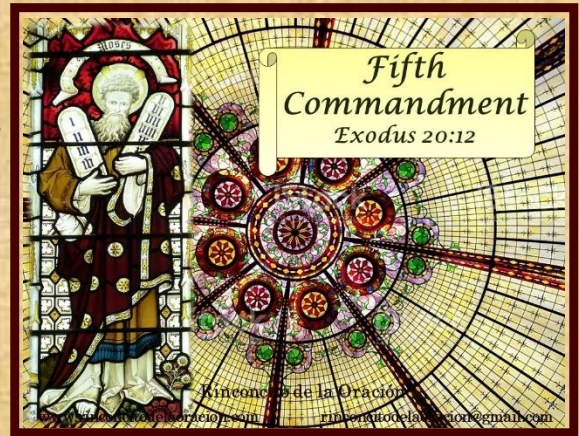
It would be appropriate to remember that the elderly have years of experience behind themselves. Their lives were interwoven over the years with achievements and failures, which would be convenient to take into account by the youngest. *“With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.”* Job 12:12

But unfortunately, this is not a very popular ideal in this modern world, where youth has become an "idol to serve and to be accountable", where both men and women strive and spend fortunes to remain eternally young, while old age is feared and despised in many cases.

Conclusion: honoring one's parents implies valuing them, caring for them, showing them respect, and taking them into consideration. The commandment is given to children, but not only to be followed while they are young, but throughout their lives.

It may be said that this commandment consists of three parts: reverence, obedience, and gratitude. Parents have authority over their children, and this is the way God has so established, communicating it to them as part of the honor that is due to them. Therefore, the obedience due to them must be like a stepping stone that leads us to obey the One who is the Heavenly High Father.

Unfortunately, when children grow up, they become independent and no longer need their parents, so they are forgotten. In some cases, because of their many daily obligations, in others, because parents are considered out of date and their advice or opinions do not belong to “these times”.



It is convenient to remember that "they" gave the best of their lives during their youth, caring for and attending to the needs of their children and now being older, they most likely need the care and love of their children with greater intensity. Unfortunately, some sons and daughters consider their parent disposable when they become old and at the first inconvenience, they take them to a nursing home and forget about them. In Matthew 7:12 the apostle calls attention to this "... do unto others as you would others do unto you..."

However, in other cultures, such as in Eastern ones, elderly parents are taken very seriously regarding their care and advice, but this doesn't seem to be so in Western cultures, where many elders are discarded and forgotten.

Whoever does not honor his parents, does not honor his Heavenly Father, he who does not love his parents, does not love the Lord; he who does not respect his parents, does not respect the Lord; and he who rejects his parents, rejects his Heavenly Father. *"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."* Proverbs 16:31

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:32

We trust that those who read this commandment, will put it to practice since by following it, it will dignify their parents and honor the Lord.

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