

# ***Godly Relationships***

**Embry Hills Church of Christ  
Fall 2020**

# Godly Relationships

## Adult Children, Parents, and Extended Family Lesson 7

**Introduction.** The stages of life bring changing relationships, responsibilities, and challenges in our family relationships, especially in the close bond between parents and children. The ideal situation, of course, is a common faith passed down through the generations (II Tim 1:5) and expressed between them in godly, loving behavior. However, shortcomings in godliness and unfaithfulness in parents and/or children corrupt that ideal and require the aspects of character presented earlier (godliness, purity, contentment, kindness, selflessness, humility, forbearance) to deal with the difficulties created.

**A. Bible Commands to Children.** List the command and age of the child indicated in each command.

Bible Ref.	Command or Implied Principle	Implied Age of child		
		young child	young adult	mature adult
Ex 20:12; Lv 19:3; Dt 5:16	<i>Honor / Revere Father &amp; Mother</i>	✓	✓	✓
Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20				
Mk 7:10-13; Mat 15:1-9;				
I Tim 5:4,8,16; Ezek 22:6-7				
II Tim 3:2; Rom 1:28				
I Tim 5:1-2;19-20; Lv 19:32				
Prov 1:8-9; 4:1; 6:20-22; 23:22				
Prov 17:6,25; 23:24-25; 17:6				
Dt 21:20; Ex 21:15				

1. List the types “honoring” of parents implied in the passages above?

Might a son’s responsibility be different from a daughter’s? Explain.

2. What ideal assumption about the character of parents is implied in [most of] these commands?

3. Does Bible imply that there may be parent-child relationships where this assumption is not only incorrect, but also harmful (Lk 14:26; 18:28-30; Dt 33:8-11)?

**B. Stages of 'Honor'.** The relationship of children to their parents evolves as they pass through phases of life. Characterize each phase and the godly character to overcome the difficulties, giving 'honor'.

1. Adolescent/teenage child, living at home
  - a. Child's concerns & priorities
  - b. Parent's concerns & priorities
  - c. Typical conflicts:
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2. Single child, just beginning life 'on their own' (e.g. away at college or first job/apartment)
  - a. Child's concerns & priorities
  - b. Parent's concerns & priorities
  - c. Typical conflicts
    - 
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3. Newly married child
  - a. Child's concerns & priorities
  - b. Parent's concerns & priorities
  - c. Typical conflicts
    - 
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4. Child with aging, or infirm, or troubled parent
  - a. Child's concerns & priorities
  - b. Parent's concerns & priorities
  - c. Typical conflicts
    - 
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C. **Example Problems:** Describe an appropriate young adult's response to a parent who is:

- a. Annoying, nagging, interfering, or dominating in their child's life
  
  
  
- b. Overwhelmed with issues in their own life—disengaged from the family
  
  
  
- c. Struggling (unsuccessfully) with a moral issue like sexual immorality or addiction

**D. Attitudes and Actions Toward Siblings**

1. Does the Bible indicate that disagreements, jealousy, selfishness, dishonesty, and mistreatment are likely to occur within families, especially among siblings? List some Bible examples.
2. Do the Bible warnings about the dangers of association with evil (e.g. II Cor 6:14-17, and see Dt 13:6-11) change when dealing with family members? List some guidelines, including preventive and preparatory measures that would help in dealing with siblings and other near-relatives that are:
  - a. Unfaithful and/or rebellious Christians (see I Cor 5:9-11)
  - b. Have never been Christians, and are simply 'of the World'.
3. What additional complications arise because of family relationships?
4. What are some wrong responses to this difficulty?
5. What suggested practices can you recommend?