

HONOR FATHER

John Edwards

“Father” occurs 998 times in the word of the Lord. The first occurrence is in Genesis 2:24 where the Bible says, “Therefore shall a man leave his **father** and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

Throughout the Scriptures, the Lord teaches that father is to be honored.

PASSAGES TEACHING

HONOR FOR FATHER. The fifth commandment stated, “Honour thy **father** and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Ex. 20:12). This is repeated in Deuteronomy 5:16. The law carried the death penalty for “he that smiteth his **father**, or his mother” (Ex. 21:15) and “he that curseth his **father**, or his mother” (Ex. 21:17). This is also taught in Leviticus 20:9. Leviticus 19:3 records, “Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his **father**....” Proverbs often instills respect for father (Prov. 1:8; 4:1; 19:26; 20:20; 23:22; 28:24; 30:11, 17). Honoring father is incorporated in the New Testament. Ephesians 6:2, “Honour thy **father** and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” Thus, to honor father is

to promote well-being and length of days. To fail to honor father, as the Bible teaches, is to dishonor and disobey God.

WAYS OF HONORING FATHER. Now that we have learned that we are to honor father, what are some ways honor is shown for father? We honor father by:

How we speak to and of him. Honor is shown in our speech. How do you speak to your father? Do address him with respect? How do you speak of him to others? May we always show the proper respect for father in how we speak.

Obeying him. Father is to be obeyed. The law of Moses taught, “If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his **father**, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his **father** and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die...” (Dt. 21:18-21). It is written: “My son, hear the instruction of thy **father**...” (Prov. 1:8). “Hear, ye children,

the instruction of a **father**...” (Prov. 4:1). “Hearken unto thy **father** that begat thee...” (Prov. 23:22). Children are responsible to obey their father.

Be a wise son. “A wise son maketh a glad **father**...” (Prov. 10:1; 15:20). “He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the **father** of a fool hath no joy” (Prov. 17:21). “A foolish son is a grief to his **father**...” (Prov. 17:25). “A foolish son is the calamity of his **father**...” (Prov. 19:13). “The **father** of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy **father** and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice” (Prov. 23:24-25). “Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his **father**...” (Prov. 29:3).

Nourish him. Joseph placed his father in the best of the land of Egypt and “...nourished his **father**, and his brethren...” (Gen. 47:11-12). “Nourished” indicates Joseph sustained and supported his father. Joseph’s father was affected by the severe famine and God put Joseph in a position where he could maintain him. What a great example! 1 Timothy 5:4 teaches, “...to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.”

Honor father every day!

WHAT DIRECTION ARE YOU HEADING?

Nicolas Edwards

God's people were heading the wrong direction in Jeremiah's day as they "*Went backward, and not forward*" (Jer. 7:24; 15:6). Today, some are heading the wrong direction. Some suggest we need to do less, step it down, decrease. They think in minimums and not maximums. That is not what the Bible teaches! What saith the Scripture?

INCREASE; INCREASING. "*...We beseech you, brethren, that ye **increase** more and more*" (1 Th. 4:10). "*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and **increasing** in the knowledge of God*" (Col. 1:10). This means "to become greater, to grow, to enlarge." Does this describe you?

ABOUND; ABOUNDING. "*Therefore, as ye **abound** in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye **abound** in this grace also*" (2 Cor. 8:7).

*"For if these things be in you, and **abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Pet. 1:8). "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always **abounding** in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord*" (1 Cor. 15:58). This means "exceed, over and above, overflowing, abundance, to excel, be excellent." Are you excellent (Ps. 16:3)?

GROW. "*But speaking the truth in love, may **grow** up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ*" (Eph. 4:15). "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may **grow** thereby*" (1 Pet. 2:2). "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Pet. 3:18). This means "increase, to cause to grow, become greater." Are you obeying this command?

MORE AND MORE. "*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet **more and more** in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be*

sincere and without offence till the day of Christ" (Phil. 1:9). "*...abound **more and more***" (1 Th. 4:1). This means "to a greater degree." More and more; not less and less!

ADD TO. "*And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to** your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity*" (2 Pet. 1:5-7). This means "fully supply, contribute, to be supplied."

Next time someone says we need to do less, thinks in minimums, asks what is the least I can do?, says we need to step it down, bring these passages to their attention. Are you going forward or backward? Are you growing? Are you studying? Are you working? Are you giving all diligence? Too many Christians are not. What about you?

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

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