



The fifth commandment simply states, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12). Both Jesus and Paul repeated this command in the New Testament, emphasizing its importance. In fact, Paul states that one who does not provide for his family is worse than an unbeliever!

The family is the foundation for all other earthly relationships. In it we learn respect for authority, conflict resolution, love, obedience, and forgiveness. Essential values of faith, morality, and society are transmitted by and through the family unit.

This commandment addresses more than just the relationship of a child to his parents. It has implications on our relationship to elderly parents and ultimately to all authority established by God.

1. Compare and contrast Exodus 20:12 with Deuteronomy 5:16 (see also Leviticus 19:3)
2. What are the consequences of following this "advice"? (see also Exodus 21:15, 17)
3. In what context did Jesus quote this commandment? (Mark 7:9-13, John 19:26-27)  
How would we apply this today? (see also 1 Timothy 5:8)
4. In what context did Paul quote this commandment (Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20)  
How would this be applied this today?
5. What is our responsibility as fathers to our children? (Deuteronomy 6:1-7, compare with Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21)
6. How does this relationship with parents influence one's view of authority? God?  
Romans 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-42

*"Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him.  
Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.  
Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.  
They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate."  
(Psalm 127:3-5)*