

Family Matters

Parents and Kids

MAY 1, 2022

One of the most complicated relationships in life is the one between parents and children. How can we not just survive the challenges of those relationships, but even enjoy them through the twists and turns?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- The relationship between parents and kids is complicated because it can change so much over time.
- God wants to be a heavenly Father to you who redefines what a parent means.
- Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. | Exodus 20, v.12
- Children's relationship with their parents is meant to be their first, most important relationship.
- If a child can learn to honor their parent's authority, it will prepare them for all of the relationships that await them later in life.
- A parent's ultimate responsibility is to teach their children to honor God.
- Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. | Proverbs 22, v.6
- Parents, be faithful to train your kids in the right way, and then pray and trust God to do the work only He can do in their hearts.
- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment with a promise - "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." | Ephesians 6, vv.1-3
- "If we never have headaches through rebuking our children, we shall have plenty of heartaches when they grow up." | Charles Spurgeon
- Parents, don't come down too hard on your children or you'll crush their spirits. | Colossians 3, v.21, MSG version
- If you have a very unhealthy relationship with your parents, the book "Boundaries" by Henry Cloud and John Townsend may help.
- Praying for your parents is one of the most honoring things you can do, and it can change both their hearts and yours.
- We're all responsible for how we respond to the difficult people in our lives and whether we let resentment and bitterness take root in our hearts.
- One principle that will serve both parents and children - "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you." | Matthew 7, v.12
- In order to treat others the way I would want to be treated if I were them, I need to put myself in their shoes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the relationship you have or had with your parents? (And/or: How would you describe the relationship you have with your kids?)
2. What do you think it looks like to honor your parents? What successes or challenges do you have in doing that?
3. Parents, how do you try to teach your kids to honor God and others? What successes or challenges have you had in trying to do that?
4. Moving forward, what do you think would be most helpful in cultivating healthy, God-honoring relationships with your parents and/or kids?