



Essential Evangelization

Honor Mom & Dad

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you." The fourth commandment is the first commandment with a unique promise from Scripture.

God knows what is best for us. The 10 Commandments are not something to restrict our freedoms, but to help us live our lives to the fullest and happiest, and for harmony in our families and our communities. Today's TV sitcoms and modern movies and media tend to depict families and especially parents in the worst light. In many cases it is the mom and dad who are the bimbo's and the kids seem to have more wisdom than the parents. That is not God's design.

2 Timothy also tells us, "But understand this: there will be terrifying times in the last days. People will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, **disobedient to their parents**, ungrateful, irreligious, callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, as they make a pretense of religion but deny its power." Sound familiar?

Per God's design, children should be thankful to their parents for the gift of life, and for their hard work to provide food and shelter and for their teaching that allowed them to grow in stature, wisdom and grace. And Scripture reminds us, "Remember that through your parents you were born; what can you give back to them that equals their gift to you?" (Sir 7:27-28).

Our Catholic Catechism also tells us: "As they grow up, children should continue to respect their parents. They should anticipate their wishes, willingly seek their advice, and accept their just admonitions. Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so respect, which is always owed to them. This respect has its roots in the fear of God..... mutual affection suggests this. The charity of Christ demands it."

So regardless of the quality of upbringing our parents have afforded us, it is God's law that we "honor" them. And honor is a verb that requires action and goes beyond respect.

*This is one of a series of articles on
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