

10 Keys To Successful Living
5 – Remember Where You Came From
Ex 20.12

“Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

This is for everybody, not just children

These commandments were given to the whole community of Israel gathered at Mount Sinai, and the great majority of them were adults.

The basic idea behind the word *honour* in Hebrew is the idea of weight. If you honour someone or something you treat them as something of significance in your life, something weighty.

Honouring parents has deeper consequences

This is the only commandment that has a promise attached ...so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

For our identity

When we honour our parents we recognise that the world didn't begin with us. Honouring our parents is a very simple way of remembering where we came from.

Jesus affirms this command

And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, “Honour your father and mother” and “Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.” But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is ‘devoted to God,’ they are not to ‘honour their father or mother’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. Matthew 15.4-6

So does Paul

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5.8

For society

Whenever the basic structure of the family breaks down, it threatens the well-being of the entire society. But when we honour and care for our parents, we create a social climate that enhances the possibility of a good and long life, not only for each person but for society as a whole.