

Basic Disciplines of Believers

Discipline #1: BIBLE SATURATION (Be a Sponge!) – I am filling myself with God's Word

Joshua 1:8 – *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Discipline #2: CONTINUAL PRAYER – I am always talking to God.

Colossians 4:2 – *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

Discipline #3: YIELDED FOLLOWERSHIP (Submitting to Authority) – I am willingly following my God-given leaders.

Romans 13:1-2 – *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

Submitting to God

Submitting to Husbands

Submitting to Parents

- **What Does It Mean to Honor One's Parents?**
- **How Important Is It to Honor One's Parents?**
- **What Is Involved in Honoring One's Parents?**
- **When Are We to Honor Our Parents?**
 - The Placement of the Man as the Leader of the Home (Commanded Before Others Were Created)
 - The Principle (Command) Is Among Others That Have No Age Limit
 - The Principle (Command) Is Given to "Adults"
 - The Principle (Command) Contains No Limits of Age or Circumstance
 - The Promise Implies Entire Life Observance for Lifelong Blessing (& Deterrent)
 - The Pattern & Practice Throughout the Bible Remains Unchanged
 - The Preaching of Jesus Indicates Ongoing Responsibility Throughout Life
 - The Primary Change Seems to Occur at Marriage (How Can Commitments Be Made Not to Give Sons/Dau?)
 - The People Groups in the Church Seem to Imply This
 - No "Teens"
 - No "Adults"
 - The categories summarize the standing groups
 - The Predications of the Result of Sin (Rom 1 & 1 Tim 3)
 - Problem Passage(s)? 1 Cor 13:11 (cp with Gal 4:1-3)
The Creator, not culture, must define and dictate our relationships and our responsibilities.
- **What Are the Exceptions When One Is Not to Honor One's Parents?**

WHEN ARE WE NOT TO HONOR OUR PARENTS? SOME SCRIPTURAL INDICATORS:

To Honor Means To:

1. *LISTEN To My Parents*
2. *OBEY My Parents*
3. *SPEAK KINDLY To and About My Parents*
4. *CARE FOR My Parents When They Grow Old*

Is it ever appropriate to not do any of these?

If so, under what circumstances?

If so, what is still required of me?

Questions and Answers:

Is it ever appropriate to not do any of these?

- To be clear, the Bible NEVER gives reason or right to dishonor one's parents.
- It seems that the only one that could be POSSIBLY necessary to not comply with is OBEY.
- We should never cease to listen, to speak kindly to and about them, and to care for them in their later years.

If so, under what circumstances?

Circumstance #1: At Marriage, Parental Influence Changes

At marriage (as we have discussed) the Bible indicates that the man becomes the direct authority for his family.

- 1) This does not automatically excuse those married from walking in the footsteps of what their parents taught them, as the Word indicates an expectation of lifelong impact of what parents teach. It does, however, seem to require the man to make Biblically based choices based upon the Word and wisdom for his own family. A married couple would build upon what they have been taught.
- 2) In Scripture (especially the OT), you do see strong influence of extended family by the patriarchs (think of Jacob directing his sons regarding obtaining food in Egypt). The existence of such influence does not automatically establish such a practice as a command or principle, but the Word doesn't direct away from it either.

Circumstance #2: A Higher Authority Requires a Different Direction

- 1) Any higher God-established authority (not always easy to determine what is "higher").
- 2) God Himself. (God must be our Highest Authority. Therefore, there may be times when His commands must override our earthly authorities.)

²⁹ "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. (Matt 19:29)

²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, ³⁰ "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions-- and in the age to come, eternal life. (Mark 10:29-30)

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:26)

²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." (Matt 8:21-22)

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set [them] before the council. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸ saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" ²⁹ But Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said: "We ought (dei) to obey (peitharcheo) God rather than men. (Acts 5:27-29)

If so, what is still required of me?

- Yielding neither assumes nor requires complete agreement. In fact, submission assumes some disagreement or lack of desire to proceed. Our yielding is based upon God's commands, not the qualifications of the person being yielded to.
- This would require clear command of Scripture.
- This would not be based upon personal hardship or difficulty, disagreement, preference, or whim.
- This normally would never remove us out from under this authority.
- In such cases, I am still required to yield in every other area (we yield and face the consequences):
 - Jesus (before Pilate)
 - Apostles (Acts 5:26-29; 40-41; beaten)
 - Slaves (1 Pet 2:18-25)
 - Wives (1 Pet 3:1-6)