

IABC Eastern Regional Conference 2016 Faith Fellowship Church  
öDealing With Disasterö

öMinistering to Elderly Parentsö  
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*“Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.ö Exodus 20:12*

Everyone one of us has been blessed by God with earthly parents. The first man and woman that God created in His image and likeness were given the command to be fruitful and multiply. God in His perfect wisdom and will had instituted the family unit from Creation to be a reflection of His being and attributes. God’s own declaration was that this was övery goodö. (Genesis 1:31)

God would also use marriage and the family to be a picture of the Church, the Body and Bride of Jesus Christ. How a husband loves and sacrifices for his wife and how a wife submits unto her husband and how children honor and obey their parents is a direct reflection of how the members of the Church are to be joined and knit together for growth in the Body and the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:16) You could say that the family is the smallest basic unit of the Church and it is for the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel. Just as scripture gives us many commands and examples of how the Church is to love, sacrifice, serve, honor, obey and submit to one another, there may be no greater way we as Christians can fulfill this than with in our very own families. Many of us may have the privilege and responsibility to minister to our elderly parents who require special care and attention. May we do so in a way that is honoring to the Lord and to them!

## **I. The Command**

Children have been commanded by God to honor their parents.

Exodus 20:12      Matthew 15:4      Ephesians 6:1-3      1 Timothy 5:4

*“honor”*- To value, revere, to personally esteem worth

Jesus not only demonstrated honor of His earthly parents and heavenly Father, He repeatedly taught it.

Luke 2:51,52      Matthew 15:4, 19:19      John 8:49

## II. The Curse or the Blessing

Jesus condemned the self-righteous who disobeyed the Lord's command to honor their parents. He equated honoring your parents with honoring the Lord. There is blessing in the obedience and faith of caring for your parents.

Matthew 15:3-9    Deuteronomy 27:16    Proverbs 30:11    2 Timothy 3:2  
Deuteronomy 28:1,2,15

## III. The Care

It is first and foremost the responsibility of the family to care for their parents, especially the widows. Even Jesus in His crucifixion cared for the welfare of His mother.

1 Timothy 5:3,4,8    James 1:27    John 19:25-27

*"piety"* - A dutiful support and high regard towards.

The interests and needs of your parents takes precedence over your own. Jesus fulfilled this at all times with all people.

Philippians 2:1-5

Flesh out the characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians 13.

ex. Since love bears all things I will be patient and sensitive to the needs of my parent.

Remember that God works all things together for our good and His glory and will always give us His strength to endure when we rejoice in difficulties.

Romans 8:28    2 Corinthians 12:9,10

Involve as many family members as possible to help in the care of your parent(s). Use this as an opportunity to show the love of Christ and to share the gospel with unsaved parents and family members.

Romans 10:14-17

## IV. The Cure

There are numerous practical ways to help meet the needs of your parents and to bring relief from pain and discomfort. As a caregiver you must not only focus on their physical needs but your need to be faithful and helpful whether there is a financial, relational, emotional and most importantly spiritual need they may have.

Pray with them and for them. James 5:13-16 Ephesians 6:18

Sing with them. Colossians 3:16

Read God's Word with them. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Rejoice and be thankful with them. Philippians 4:4-7

Encourage thoughts of things praiseworthy. Philippians 4:8,9

Remind them of God's promises and faithfulness. Hebrews 13:5,6

Focus on heaven. John 14:1-3

As a Christian, caring for your parents is not a *õI* have to *õ* but *õI* get to *õ*. They deserve our honor and support which the Apostle Paul stated was *õ*good and acceptable before God *õ*. Along with the Church, you can minister to their need in such a way that brings glory to God and is well pleasing to Him.

*"And whatever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord Christ."* Colossians 3:23,24

"Be sure that you dearly love your parents; delight to be in their company; be not like those unnatural children, that love the company of their idle play-fellows better than their parents, and had rather be abroad about their sports, than in their parents' sight. Remember that you have your being from them, and come out of their loins: remember what sorrow you have cost them, and what care they are at for your education and provision; and remember how tenderly they have loved you and how much your happiness will make them glad: remember what love you owe them both by nature and in justice, for all their love to you, and all that they have done for you: they take your happiness or misery to be one of the greatest parts of the happiness or misery of their own lives" Puritan Richard Baxter 1670 AD