

## It's Not Father's Day (But You're Still the Dad)

### Part 5: Honor

God has assigned the primary role of leadership and discipline in the home to fathers. The last several articles have focused on the text of Ephesians 6:4. Prior to this instruction (verses 1-3), the Apostle Paul addressed children:

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother...that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.**

Some years ago, when my children were small, it occurred to me that this instruction could not possibly be directed to very young children; *they cannot read!* So, it is the responsibility of parents to teach their children to “*honor your father and mother.*”

How do you teach *honor*???

It is likely that you have been touched by stories or news clips in which honor was shown to someone in our military. It might have been a crowd of people gathering to celebrate a soldier. It might have been a receiving line at an airport to welcome soldiers home. It might have been the moment when the solemn silence at a funeral of a fallen hero is broken by the eruption of the 21-gun salute and the mournful call of the bugle playing *Taps*. Or perhaps you have witnessed a small child standing at attention to salute a soldier in uniform. *Honor.*

A father instructs his son regarding our nation's flag. He teaches the meaning of the stars and the stripes. He remembers those who have sacrificed so much for the freedom it symbolizes.

A mother tells her children about their two grandfathers who served in the military. As she displays pictures of the men in uniform as she relates stories which were told her. She shows

her children the folded flags placed on the mantle to honor the service of each man.

A school teacher teaches, not merely the words, but the *meaning* of the Pledge of Allegiance.

There are countless ways in which we can illustrate honor for our country and our men and women in uniform. The common element in these displays of honor is *value*. Honor is given to people and things in which we place great value. Our value is evident by the way we speak and how we show respect.

We make efforts to draw special attention to the things and people we value. We commit ourselves in loyalty and service to the objects of our honor. We protest dishonor of any kind.

Dads, value your wife and demand that your children cherish and respect their mother.

Moms, value your husband and demand that your children value and respect their father.

Teach your children godly character; value it in your home. Tell your children: This is how we act; this is how we speak; this is what we say; This is who we are. Then be sure to demonstrate those same godly values.

Are you loyal to God? Do you value his word? Do you honor His people? Do you value spiritual things?

One of the most important ways to teach honor is to teach obedience. Disobedience is nothing less than dishonor; yet in obedience a child honors his parents *and* honors God. A wise parent will discipline disobedience and dishonor.

Finally, when your children honor you, even if you do not feel deserving, accept the honor. In doing so, you allow them to fulfill God's instruction. Honor is good. Honor is right.

Mark Stinnett