Give Honor to Whom It's Due

Scripture: Exodus 20:12
(10-25-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

The Fifth Commandment states: *Honor your father and your mother.* The word "honor" is the Hebrew word *kavod*. It literally means "heavy" or "weight." To be a parent is a "weighty" thing therefore we should consider them, not to ignore. We should take them seriously, not for granted. We should value them, not treat them as cheap. Our mother and father are to be designated of great significance.

Why should we honor them? According to Deuteronomy 6: Parents are God's FIRST LINK of blessing (6:1-3). Parents are God's CHANNEL of truth (6:4-9). Parents are to be VIGILANT with their faith (6:10-12). Parents are to be PROACTIVE in their faith (6:13-19). Parents are to TESTIFY about their faith (6:20-25). These are 'heavy' roles and 'weighty' responsibilities deserving of great honor.

How should we honor them? Consider these simple and practical ways: (1) LISTEN Actively, (2) SPEAK Politely, (3) PRIORITIZE Habitually, (4) HELP Intentionally, (5) CONSIDER Graciously, (6) RECONCILE Lovingly, and (7) THANK Generously. In doing so, Ephesians 6:3 reminds us, "*that it may go well with you, and that you may enjoy long life …"*

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What is included in honoring our parents? What parameters must we use on how best to honor them?

2. How did Deuteronomy 6 demonstrate what it means to keep the fifth commandment?

3. In what specific ways do you plan to keep the fifth commandment?