

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 18

Loving Others: Part 1 [5th and 6th Commandments]

God has made it very plain in Roman 6:23, “²³For the wages of sin *is* death; BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” According to First John 3:4 Sin is the disobedience of God’s Law, His Ten Commandments. Eternal death is the reality of disobeying God’s Law. But by God’s grace and only His GRACE and love for us, He gives us Jesus Christ to save us from eternal death. Jesus is our only hope. All you have to do is accept Him. Remember that the foundation of God’s Ten Commandments is Love. God love for us and our love toward God and others. So it is not just a law of strict rules and regulations. God’s Law gives you true freedom, protection, direction, peace and happiness.

This lesson examine the 5th and 6th commandments thoroughly. Remember the first four commandments teaches us how to love God and the last six commandments teaches us how to love others. The 5th commandment is the first of the commandments that shows us how to love our first human relationship, our parents. This will be another exciting and very thought provoking study so make sure you have your Bibles ready and take some good notes.

1. What is God’s fifth commandment law and what are some Biblical lessons we need to learn from it?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Exodus 20:12; Proverb 22:6; Genesis 1:28; Ephesians 6:1 – 3; Colossians 3:20

Write Bible Answer:

Honor means to highly respect and value others because of their position or what they have done for you. In other words, God is commanding us here to highly respect and value our parents. It is interesting here that the fifth commandment to honor your father and mother, is the first commandment of the last six commandments that deals with our relationship love towards others. Our parents are usually our first human contact and relationship. That is the way God originally design it. God commissions His parents to be His earthly representatives and trainers to their children in the ways of God. **Proverbs 22:6** says, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” So being a parent is an awesome and divine responsibility. God has given parents positions of authority over their children’s lives. The second reason we should honor and respect our parents is found in the first part of **Genesis 1:28**. What did God do and say to the first parents on this earth, Adam and Eve? ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Notice that God blessed the union of Adam and Eve and then He commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. To be fruitful and multiply here means that God is telling Adam and Eve to have children to fill the earth. God designed and created within both males and females an intimate process in which they both can take an active part in having children. In other words, without your parents getting together intimately you would not have existed. We must realize that God is ultimately responsible for our existence. But our parents play a significant role in the process. So, the second main reason why we should honor and respect our parents is because they through God’s help, have literally brought us into this world.

Also notice in the fifth commandment that God gives us a wonderful promise attached to it. It says that if you honor your father and mother, God promises to extend your life. Did you know that this commandment with a promise is even found in the New Testament and explained in ***Ephesians 6:1-3***? Ephesians 6:1-3 says ¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ²Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) ³That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Honoring your father and mother prolongs your life. This is a guarantee by God that is free. The secret is out. If you want to add years to your life, honor your parents. That's an exciting promise and I think that it is important to note that this commandment to honour our parents is not based on whether we have perfect parents or not the command is simply that we are to honour our parents. It does not matter how young or old we are, we are all obligated to honor and respect our parents. Amen. Now of course God is our first allegiance. If our parents ask us to do anything to dishonor God, God is not pleased. We must always honor God first in all things. So the third main reason why we should honor and respect our parents is because God promises us to extend our life if we do. The fourth main reason why we should honor our parents is found in ***Colossians 3:20***, it says, ²⁰Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is ***well pleasing*** unto the Lord.] The fourth reason we should obey our parents is because it greatly pleases God. Don't you want to please God? God is well pleased when we obey and honor our mother and father showing them love and tenderness, lightening their cares, and even comforting them in old age.

So in summary God commands us to honor our parents because they are our first human relationships who are commissioned by God to train us up in the ways of God. Second, we should honor them because they have a part in our existence. Third, we should honor our parents because God promises to extend our life. And the fourth main reason why should honor our parents as God commands is because it is pleasing to God.

2. How should we honor our parents?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: John 2:1-11; Luke 2:51; John 19:25 - 27

Write Bible Answer:

We live in a self centered society that it does not honor or highly respect or value its parents as it should. We live in a society in which children killing parents or parents killing children have rapidly increased over the years and is becoming too common. As a society we must learn how to honor [meaning highly respect and value] our parents. How should we honor our parents as God commands? First of all we should recognize that no matter how old we get we are always going to have parents, until death departs us. The greatest example of how to honor our parents is found in the life and example of Jesus Christ. While Jesus was on earth He honored, respected, valued, and show great kindness to His earthly parents. We see Jesus's tenderness and respect toward his mother at the marriage feast in John 2:1-11 in which He turned the water into unfermented wine. In ***John 19:27***, we see a perfect example of Jesus Christ honoring His widowed Mother when He was on the cross. Jesus loved and respected His mother so much, that He made sure she was taken care of by His beloved disciple John. So as children regardless of our age, we should be

kind, loving, and respectful and value our parents like Jesus Christ did. Also Jesus was in constant communication with His Heavenly Father, God the Father. We can learn from this example that we should always keep the lines of communication open with our parents. We should not initially do anything to cut those communication lines with our parents. Always be open and honest with your parents.

3. What vital role do parents have in developing a healthy society?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Genesis 1:27, 28; Ephesians 5:23-25; Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Write Bible Answer:

As mentioned earlier, God in His divine planning has given parents the responsibility to be their children's first spiritual and moral teachers. Remember in the fifth commandment that God recognizes both mother and father. Why? Because they both play a vital role in molding and shaping their children to love and honor God. The family is God's design. God designed that the family operate with both a female mother and a male father. **Genesis 1:27**, says that "God created man in his own image in the image of God created he him both; male and female created he them." And in verse 28 it says that "God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply.." In other words, God blessed the union of a family. And whatever God's blesses it is holy. So based on the Bible, only the marriage of a female and male is holy and ordained by God. So, anything outside God's family design is NOT blessed by God. According to **Ephesians 5:23-25** the husband or the father of the household is the spiritual leader of the family as Christ is the spiritual leader of the church. Husbands are to love and take care of their family like Christ loves and takes care of His church. And you know that is an awesome responsibility and the only way for any father as the head of his household to have any success is to submit to the power of Jesus Christ. Amen. Matter of fact, it is important for both parents to be in submission to the power of Christ. Because Satan seeks to destroy families. He knows that the family unit is the fabric of society. Families keep society together. From my observation, divided families create a divided society. Where there is division there is confusion, pain, and hurt. It is imperative for all parents that we train our children to not only be productive citizens in society but to love and obey God. Because if you train your children to love and obey God, your children will obey, respect you, love you, and honor you until death. This is the key. This is a must. If your children are not brought up to obey, honor, and respect God, how do you truly expect your children to obey, honor, and respect you? But again parents it starts with us. If we have a close relationship with God, God will give us the strength and wisdom on how to raise godly children. A perfect Bible promise that applies to this and the obedience of God's commandment is found in **Psalms 111:10** where it says: ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his* *commandments*: his praise endureth for ever. God promises us in **Proverbs 22:6** that if we "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." In other words God expects parents to build a firm foundation for each one of their children that is grounded and rooted in the rock of Jesus Christ. **Deuteronomy 11:18-19** says "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Amen. So, parents, mothers and fathers, are responsible for building that foundation on the Word of God. Teach them the Word both for

morning and evening worship. And the child when he or she is older is responsible for building his house on the Godly foundation that was built at home.

For many this subject of honoring your father and your mother is a very sensitive because of you could have been brought up in abusive homes or ungodly homes. Some of you were probably abandoned by one parent or both parents. So are you still obligated to honor and respect them? The answer is yes. What does Jesus say in Matthew 5:44? “⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” So you can still honor parents who were ungodly, abusive, or absent by loving, praying and doing good for them. This is the antidote of your own personal healing from the pain that they may have caused you in the past. It is not natural for us to honor someone who has dishonored us, but only God can give us the strength to honor, pray, love, and do good for others who have hurt us. Remember class any pain that parents may have caused in the past, God can heal. And rise you above your hurt and circumstances. Never forget, God is our ultimate parent and He truly care and loves you.

4. **What is God’s sixth commandment law and what are some Biblical lessons we need to learn from it?**

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Exodus 20:13; Genesis 2:7 ; Matthew 5:21, 22; 1 John 3:15; 1 John 4:20; Luke 9:54 - 56; Ezekiel 33:7, 8

Write Bible Answer:

This commandment is the shortest commandment of the ten. Basically the Hebrew meaning of “kill” in this case means intentional or premeditated murder of taking the life of an individual. Every person is precious to God because God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. **Genesis 2:7** says “⁷And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” As our Creator, God is the only source of life and as the giver of life, He commands us not to take the life of an individual. And an individual can be another person or it could even be one’s own life. This command says not to kill anyone not even one’s self. There are people who say, “Well, I would never murder anyone so I’m not or perhaps never have been or ever will be guilty of violating this commandment.” Let’s to take a closer look. Remember, Jesus came to magnify the law in order to give us a deeper understanding of it. Let’s look at what Jesus said in **Matthew 5:21** - the first part of 22. “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²²But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.” So a person may not have broken this Commandment by murdering someone with a gun or a knife, but if that person has ever had hate in their heart, they are guilty. Hate is a serious sin to God because it is the root of murder. The Bible even calls one who hates his brother a murderer. **1 John 3:15** says, “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” To add to that **1 John 4:20** says “²⁰If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” The spirit that is behind hatred is not of God. Do you remember the story when the Samaritans refused to receive Jesus into their village and James and John were so offended by this that they said in **Luke 9:54** “Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?”.

They wanted to destroy them immediately because of what they had done. But instead of destroying the Samaritans, Jesus rebuked His disciples in the next verses saying, “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save [them]. And they went to another village.” The spirit that is behind hating, hurting, or murdering another person is not of God...even if it is done by “disciples” of God. True disciples of God do not murder or hate anyone they are trying to save as Jesus did because He does not want them to be lost. That is the essence of true love when you are working to save those who are lost. In fact, we find in *Ezekiel 33:7,8* the most unfortunate and eternal act of murdering an individual and this is very serious. *Ezekiel 33:7,8* says, “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked [man], thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.” Jesus Christ has commissioned all of us as His disciples [those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ] to go and teach others His message of truth in love so that they will have an opportunity to be saved. If His disciples fail to do this and the wicked die as a result of our failure to warn them, God says, yes the wicked will die in their sin but their blood will I require at thine hand. This is the ultimate act of murder because this is an eternal death.

In conclusion of our study, God gives us a promise in I John 1:9 “⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” God’s promise is that He will forgive us and He will clean us up. If you allow the sin cleaning agent Jesus Christ to come into your heart He will work in you to both to desire and do His good pleasure. He has promised to do it if you allow Him to.