

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Presentation by Sr Sukaina Jaffer Fazal  
on the Rights of Parents in Christianity

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**By** Kelli Mahoney, Christian Teens Expert

[http://christianteens.about.com/od/Ten\\_Commandments/a/10-Commandments-Bible-Study-Honoring-Your-Parents.htm](http://christianteens.about.com/od/Ten_Commandments/a/10-Commandments-Bible-Study-Honoring-Your-Parents.htm)

# RIGHTS OF PARENTS IN CHRISTIANITY

## Honoring Parents

Exodus 20:12 – *“Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord, your God, is giving you.”*

- When we can learn to treat our parents with respect, we learn to treat God with respect.
- A direct correlation between how we treat our parents and how we treat God.
- When we don't honor our parents we become susceptible to things like bitterness and anger. When we allow other things to become excuses for not honoring our mothers and fathers, we make it easy for other things to come between us and God.
- Parents aren't perfect, so sometimes this commandment is hard, but it is one that we must strive to follow.

- Some of us have wonderful parents who provide for us spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Honoring parents like that is much easier than honoring bad parents. Some of us have parents that are not that great at giving to us what we need.
- Whether our parents were good or bad, we still have to honor them. It just means that we need to learn to put the bitterness and anger aside and realize that, good or bad, those people are our parents. **When we learn to forgive, we allow God to fill in the holes those parents left in our lives.** We don't have to necessarily love those parents, and God will take care of the consequences for those parents, but we need to learn to move forward in our lives.
- Even if we have the best parents in the world, it can be hard sometimes to honor them all the time. When we're teenagers, we're trying to become adults. It's a hard transition for everyone. So there are going to be times when things get rough between us and our parents. Honoring your parents doesn't mean agreeing with everything they say, but respecting what they have to say. For e.g. you may think that an 11pm curfew is way too early, but you honor your parents by following it.

## How to Live By This Commandment

**Be fair.** Your parents are people just like you. They are not perfect. They make mistakes. Be fair to your parents before you jump to conclusions.

**Think before you speak.** It's easy to just say what's on your mind to family. Sometimes we speak harsher words that we should, because we don't always feel like we have to filter out what we say to our family. However, words can be hurtful.

**Talk things out with them.** We want to make the best decisions possible, so when we have an issue with our parents, or even one that we're facing in our lives, sometimes it helps to talk things out with our parents.

## How to Live By This Commandment - 2

It allows parents to know how you're thinking and gives them a chance to weigh in with their life experience. It also helps your relationship to talk to them about what's going on in your life.

**Remind them you care.** It's so easy to take family for granted. We think they'll always be there. Yet sooner than later we find that our time with our parents is far too short. Take some time to remind your parents that you love them.

**Learn to forgive.** Holding onto anger and disappointment with our parents does nothing but fester inside of us. We need to learn how to forgive. Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting, but it does mean letting go of what eats us up inside.