



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”**  
**2 Peter 1:21**



## CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 Cabot, AR 72023  
[cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com](http://cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com)  
[facebook.com/cabotwestside](https://facebook.com/cabotwestside)

### When We Meet

#### Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am  
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

### Our Elders

R.D. Hopper  
 Norman Kemper

### Our Deacons

Troy Hunter  
 Kelly Kendall  
 Tony Ramick

### Our Preacher

Alex Hale

## Honoring Your Parents

By Alex Hale

Many television shows portray parents as bumbling idiots. Our society seems to place great value on youth and marginalize those who are older as out of touch with little to offer. Some view the command to honor one’s parents as antiquated and totally out of step with life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, regardless of where the world stands, it is important for us as God’s people to remember the importance of this command. If we do not honor authority in the home, we will have a hard time respecting it anywhere. Martin Luther once wrote, “Out of the authority of parents all other authority is derived and developed.” The home is a foundational part of society. One person called the family “our first hospital, first school, first government, and first church.” Another said that the home is “a laboratory for living.”

**What does it mean to honor our parents?** The word “honor” literally means “a heavy weight.” The command carries with it the idea that we “weigh heavily” the guidance of our parents. Honoring them is to measure their value as having “great weight,” much like the way scales are used to determine the value of precious metals – the more they weigh, the more they are worth.

On the other hand, “dishonor” means “to be light, swift, or trifling.” This would be used to describe a son or daughter who treated their parents lightly, as if they had no significance. One preacher compares honor and dishonor by using fine china and a plastic tumbler. When we treat the words and actions of our parents as if they are dispensable or disposable, we are showing them dishonor.

Our parents are more experienced travelers on the road of life. They have made mistakes that we can avoid if we will listen. Why must we learn from our own mistakes when it is much less painful to learn from someone else’s? There is an old episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* in which Captain Picard and his crew found themselves caught in a “time loop.” They kept reliving the same things, and in the end the ship would explode and then it would start over. They finally realized that they were making the same mistakes over and over and the only way out of the “time loop” was for them not to repeat the same errors. No society would function very long if each generation had to start over when it came to learning how to live. Perhaps this is why God promised His people that if they obeyed this commandment they would live long in the land He was giving them.

**Honoring your parents is a way to show your gratitude.** Animal babies are somewhat defenseless at birth, but a human child is dependent upon adults much longer. Good parents keep their children warm, fed, and protected. Think of the financial burden that parents bear over the years – one study showed that from birth to college it costs an average of \$241,000 to raise a child. This is not taking into account the mental toll and sleepless nights parents experience. Furthermore, this does not speak of their great spiritual responsibilities.

It is within the home that we develop our formative character traits. In her book *What is a Family?* Edith Schaeffer wrote that “...a family is a perpetual relay of truth. It is a place where principles are hammered and honed on the anvil of everyday living. It’s where character traits are sculpted under the watchful eyes of moms and dads – where steel-strong fibers are woven into the fabric of inner constitutions.” Good relationships between parents and children mean healthy families, and healthy families mean healthy communities and nations. Perhaps this is why some of the most frightening punishments in the Old Testament are reserved for children who rebel against their parents.