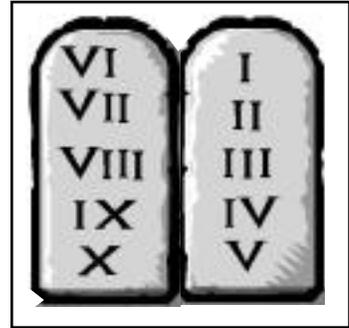


עֲשֵׂת הַדְּבָרִים

Word Number Five - כַּבֵּד

THE FIFTH WORD of the Ten words is:
“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which Adonai your God gives you.”



What does it mean to “honor” your father and your mother? The Hebrew word means “to make heavy,” and is used here in the sense of saying good things about someone—weighing them down with your good words about them. Are you ever tempted to talk bad to your friends about your father and mother? Sometimes your parents may not give you what you want, or may require you to do something that you don’t like to do. That’s where this Word of God comes into play—God requires us to honor our parents because He is the One Who gave them to us. And He does not make mistakes! When we honor our parents, we are saying that God does everything well, and we are thanking Him for taking care of us. On the other hand, when we dishonor our parents, we are also dishonoring God. We’re saying that we don’t think He is very wise or very good to give us our parents. If we want to obey God, then we must remember that even when our parents ask us to do something that we don’t like, or when they discipline us for things we do wrong, they are doing what God commanded them to do, and we must honor them for it.

Another way we honor our parents is to obey them, even when they’re not looking! Honoring our parents means we have learned to submit to authority. This is one of the most important lessons we can learn in life. A husband who does not know how to submit to authority will lead a rebel’s life and things will not go well with him. He will have a difficult time making friends because his anger will not be appreciated by others. He may also pass his spirit of rebellion on to his children. Rebellion is a sin God hates! A wife who does not know how to submit to authority will often be self-serving and a controlling person. She will not be able to make peace in the home because she is not at peace with herself. Learning to submit to authority means learning to give to God the things in our lives which we cannot control. Submitting to authority means first and foremost submitting to God. When we learn the important lesson of submission, we also learn to rest in God, which means we have true rest in our souls.

So where do we learn the first lessons of submission? We learn it at home by honoring our parents. Learning to obey this commandment will help us in all of our friendships for the rest of our lives!