MESSAGE NOTES

All In The Family - Part 5 of 6

***Reverse Parenting: When the Child Becomes the Parent***

**Deuteronomy 5:16 and Others**

**Introduction:** God speaks to us in several places in the Bible about children’s relationship with our parents. One prominent scripture is the 5th Commandment found in Deuteronomy 5:16 where God says:

***16****“Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*

The first four commandments teach us how to love God; the last six teach us how to love our neighbor. Love for God has to come first. We can't truly love one another unless we love God. But isn't it significant that in telling us how to treat our neighbor, God starts with our own family? Loving our neighbor starts at home, and home life starts with how we relate to our parents. This relationship is foundational to every other relationship.

**Honor:** The Hebrew word literally means "heavy" or "weighty." It is the word the Old Testament uses to describe the glory of God, the weightiness of His person.

**Why should we honor our parents?**

*Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.****2****“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise:****3****If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”* Ephesians 6:1-3

Proverbs 3:1-3…

How does this command apply to those who have parents who are at best dysfunctional and at worst abusive? The command to honor parents doesn't mean that we do everything they tell us to do. We have to honor God first. And so, sometimes we honor our parents the most by trying to preserve their honor and keep them from doing something that will dishonor God. The command to honor our parents doesn't mean that we never set up boundaries in our relationships with them. Submitting to authority never means subjecting ourselves to violence or abuse. There are times to say to a parent, "Because of how you've broken my trust over and over again, at least for now I can't be in a close relationship with you." You honor them more by doing that than by allowing them to continue in their destructive ways.

When parents have caused deep pain and disappointment:

1. Do not ignore the pain you feel.

When parents have caused deep pain and disappointment:

2. Discuss what happened with your parents, or a Christian friend or counselor if your parents are not willing or able to talk about what happened.

The 5th Commandment is for children…

The 5th Commandment is for teenagers…

The 5th Commandment is for young adults…

The 5th Commandment is for middle-age adults with older parents…

*“Each of you must show great respect for your mother and father, and you must always observe my Sabbath days of rest. I am the Lord Your God. …****32****“‘Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.* Leviticus 19:3, 32

The example of Jesus…