

April 30, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

Family

“The people that God uses to shape you and mold you to become the best you can be.”

Name: _____

Take me home!

QUESTION
AUTHORITY.

OK...

WHY ARE YOU
SUCH A HYPOCRITE?

I DIDN'T MEAN
QUESTION MY
AUTHORITY!

HOW DOES AUTHORITY WORK ...

Living with Authority...

Okay, you got this, you know everything that you need to know to get the job done. You are on your own, and you don't need anybody telling you what to do, or how to do it... You are in Middle School, it is time for your parents to step back and just let things flow. Well, that might be a little extreme, but sometimes when you continue to dishonor your parents, that is what it seems like to them. Okay I get it too, that it is not always easy being told what to do and when to do it. You want some freedom and you want your parents to trust you with that freedom. You just want to be you and well, you can't do that under all the rules and the guidelines that your parents put on you. So what are you going to do? Move out, get your own place, get a job drop out of school? How are you going to continue to live the life that you want to live when there are so many rules locking you down? You could do what many middle school students have done for a long time. Get sneaky and get good at being sneaky, so that you can do whatever you want, because you just don't get caught. Be hey lets face it everyone gets caught it just a matter of when will you get caught. Okay there is a tension that happens in middle school and well for the entirety of your life. The tension of your parents rules and requirements vs. the things that you want to do, and they don't always line up together.

But what you and what I did not understand when I was in middle school was that my parents actually had my best interest in mind. They actually loved me so much that they wanted the best for me. They were also smart enough to know that I would not choose the best. So that is why they created the rules and guidelines for me to live by, so that I would experience the best possible life if I followed the rules that is. Okay so take a look at this wisdom from the Bible. Ephesians 6:1-3 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" which is the first commandment with a promise 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." I love this command from God because it comes with a promise. Which means if you follow this commandment then the promise becomes something that you can call on God to keep. Honor your father and mother, and it will go well for you and you will enjoy long life on earth. That is a pretty rad promise, long, enjoyable life here on earth! Sign me up, but you have to process the commandment. You have to honor your mother and father. You have to do what they say and seek to please them. Not just so you get the promise, the promise is what it is, but when you honor your parents you are saying that you love them and you trust them to show you how to have a long and enjoyable life here on earth.... Honor your parents!



Living Extreme means...

You know who you are and you can allow yourself to follow authority. If you know who you are and what you are made of and what God says about you, then the authority does not threaten you. Authority is given by God, especially in your life, to your parents, to your teachers, to the government, and so on. So if God has entrusted these people to have authority in your life, then it serves you well to trust them and allow their authority to guide your life. You see it is all about you and what you think about yourself. If you feel powerless and small, with no value then authority scares you and you don't want to follow it. The truth is you have to believe in who you are and what you are made of to allow authority to rule over your life. Authority guides with good intentions. It directs with care, and with purpose.

So how do you handle authority? Do you follow it? Do you run away from it? Do you fight it? How you answer these questions says a lot about how you see yourself. Know who you are and live with extreme passion and vision and trust authority.

CHARACTER

EXTREME APPLICATION

What is your character, are you a know it all? Do you take instruction well? Character defines us and sometimes we need to look at our character and process is our character full or pride? Pride in what you do and how you do it is good. But Pride can cause us to think we don't need any help from anyone. Not even God. Check your character has it become infected with pride. Want to test it, then ask yourself this. When was the last time that you really listened to and followed your parents advice? Check your character keep it in balance.

Think About it The tension of (Honoring your parents)

So what is the tension in honoring your parents? Well it is the culture that we live in and the lies that we are told. Deception comes in and tells us that we will never ever be what we were made to become if we listen to our parents. The culture tells us that we must follow it and listen to it at all cost. That the world knows how to raise a young man or young woman into adulthood. Your friends pull you away, it seems like everyone else is getting to do everything, but you. As we grow there is this lie that says for you to become who you want to become you must push back the authority in your life, and become your own authority. What is crazy is that many parents believe this lie as well and believe that one day you will rebel and fight against their authority. Which means that you have no one guiding you to good decisions and well in the end you will have to go and make stupid decisions and feel a ton a pain. Crazy I know, your future is not looking so bright.

So what can we do about it? Well you can see that God's way is the best way and that the Bible has wisdom to teach you. If you can trust that statement, then you can honor your mother and father with great passion. When you honor your mother and father with great passion things work out and make more sense. Your life will not become instantly perfect, no it will not, but you have the odds in your favor as you go through life.

Think about it this way, if your family is your team, and your parents are you coaches, you stand the best chance of doing great when you have your team on your side. How many times have we been in the game and looked around and our team was no where to be seen. You need your team on your side and you need to trust your team! You need your team leading and coaching you. They no more about life than you do, they are your best hope! Now they don't know what it is to walk in your shoes, or what it means to be you. That is where communication comes in, that is when you have to talk and share what it is to be you. Fighting there authority and pushing them away will not help. You need them close, you need their guidance, and support.

So honor your parents each day and walk with them so that you will have all the support that you need for the journey of life that is ahead of you.

Honor Your Parents

You've probably heard somewhere that you're supposed to honor your parents. But you might not be completely clear on what it means to honor. The word honor can actually mean all kinds of things, depending on how it's used. But all the ways to use it connect with the ideas of respect and something special. So, if someone is introducing the president and says, "It's my great honor to introduce the president," they mean, "Wow what a special privilege that I get to do this!" If you take an "honors class" in high school, it's a special class that not just anyone can get into. If something is considered honorable, that means it's worthy of honor, or worthy of respect. It can also mean the person or thing is very honest and truthful. Honorable is actually a title given to judges the Honorable Betty Judge person and suggests that this person, this judge, is both worthy of respect and will be someone committed to truth. But to give honor to someone means that you're showing them great respect. Actually, you can give honor both to someone or to something. You can give honor to the great sport of, say, trampoline jumping, by talking about what a perfect and wonderful sport it is—worthy of not just your respect, but of everyone's respect. So to honor a person means, basically, to treat them with great respect.

WHY DOES GOD CARE IF I HONOR MY PARENTS?

With that understanding of what it means to honor (read the last chapter if you haven't already), why does God care if you honor your parents or not? It's one of the Big 10, you know! One of the Ten Commandments says: "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). Why? Why does God care? Some of the other commandments —like, "Don't kill people"—are more obvious and make sense on their own most of the time, right? Stick with us here: God's command that you honor your parents is actually proof of God's love for you. Yeah, we know, that's a bit hard to believe at first pass. Let us unpack it a bit, by stepping back in time to the very start of time. God invented time. God invented everything, including you and us. And God's only reason for making you was because he wanted to love you. He didn't invent you as a neat science trick. He didn't invent you because he was bored. He made you to be loved. But God invented everything else in all of creation also—and not just stuff, but also things you can't touch or own, like relationships and families. God thought up and made it so that a new human would grow inside Mom and be born as a helpless little baby. And God made up the process that says how long it will take for you to grow up into an adult. The whole time God was inventing all this stuff that impacts you every day, his only motivation (reason) was love, love, and more love. Bottom line: God knows his invention. And God knows that we need parents in our lives while we're growing up—parents who will nurture us and guide us and set an example for us and set boundaries for us. Your parents aren't perfect (no human is). But they're part of God's loving design for your life, and you need them. That's why you need to honor them. And when you do honor them (show them respect), you're really honoring God. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HONOR MY PARENTS? Let's go right to the Bible to answer this great question. That "honor your mom and pop" verse is in the Ten Commandments, which is in Exodus (and other places). But there's another famous verse about children and parents that you may have heard: Colossians 3:20. Here it is in two different Bible versions: Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (NIV) Children, do what your parents tell you. This delights the Master no end. (The Message) It's pretty plain and clear, isn't it? Why should you honor your parents? Well, because it pleases God when you do. It makes God happy! Now, we're not suggesting that God will zap you with zits if you don't honor your parents or line your pockets with happiness and money if you do. God doesn't work that way. But you do have a chance to make God happy—and that's pretty cool!

Remember what we wrote in the last chapter about why God cares about this? (Go back and read it if you didn't already.) It's not that God is insecure and needs you to do what he says, or he'll put you in the corner! God wants you to honor your parents be-cause it pleases him. It pleases him because he knows what's best for you. He knows what's best for you because he invented you. He invented you because he loves you. So in the very clear words of The Message (the second version of Colossians 3:20 in this chapter) do what your parents tell you. That's how you honor them. That doesn't mean you can't have discussions with your parents about what boundaries make sense or what rules should be reconsidered. It also doesn't mean that you should ignore stuff that shouldn't be part of a family. But it does mean, at the end of the day, that your life will be better if you do what they say.

The above is an excerpt from My Family.

Great book you should check it out and give it a read. Especially if you like what you read above.

We will be highlighting from this book each week as we talk about families. You can purchase this book at Barnes and Nobel.com





DIG IN

Ephesians 6:1-3 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” which is the first commandment with a promise 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

1. Why is it important to honor your mother and father?

2. What makes it hard to honor you mother and father?

4. When you honor your mother and father what does it do in your relationship with God?

4. Read Ephesians 6:1-3

Ask this: What would change in your life if you were to honor your mother and father?

Discuss this in small group.

Challenge for the week:

Attempt to live one week, 7 days, 168 hours, 1080 minutes, and 604800 seconds completely honoring your parents. No fights, no back talking, having to be asked only once to do something.

If there are disagreements between you and your parents over something that you feel strongly about, then sit down and discuss and talk it out. Have that talk when you are not emotional, and they are not emotional. Find and pick a good time to have that discussion.

Be ready to talk about your week next week. Was it better what made the difference?

TAKE SOME TIME AND JOURNAL.

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Living life with Extreme faith and Extreme vision

EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

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