

***The Duties of The Priest  
The Mission and the Work of The Church  
(Father and Mother Day Celebrations)  
Part 33***

***“But you are the chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)***

Usually the world they celebrate the father day as well as they celebrate a mother day. We as a church don't celebrate a father or mother day. Because the world around us they celebrate it with a wrong understanding so we don't want to agree and be with them. There is not in the bible father day or mother day. The word of God says in *Deuteronomy 5:16* ***“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.”*** So why then the world celebrates a father day and mother day in separate days? This is because the principles that they follow and applied are different from the Word of God that we believe and follow.

***“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)*** Therefore we don't want to be like the world who celebrate father and mother day but they don't apply the principles of the word of God to honor their parents. As well as the parents in the world they are not keen to raise up their children according to the word of God. In fact we don't observe one day, but the whole year to do our part as parent and care for our children, and the whole year to honour the parents and the spiritual parents who are caring for us.

What is in the bible is *Ephesians 6:1-3* <sup>1</sup> ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)*** <sup>3</sup> ***That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”*** And why God said obey your parents? Because the parents they have responsibilities that they need to do and as the following:

***1- Providing the physical needs for their children from food, clothes, accommodation, education, etc: “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” (1Timothy 5:8)***

***2- They are the one responsible to teach their children the word of God and raise them in the fear of the Lord: “<sup>18</sup> Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.” (Deuteronomy 11:18-21)***

***Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”*** Parents are responsible to raise up, bringing up and training the children in God's ways. The main reason God said honour your father and your mother because God gave them the responsibility to teach their children the word of God. So you as parents you will deserve honour and respect from your children when you teach them and discipline them with the word of God.

***3- Direct their children in the ways of the Lord:*** The parents who fear the Lord they are the pastors for their children. That care will continue up to preparation for marriage and to have family life, and even when the children are older than that the parents who fear God and follow Him are excellent counsellors who can direct their children to do what is right and just. <sup>18</sup> ***Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. <sup>19</sup> For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” (Genesis 18:18-19)***

Does the world who celebrate father and mother day they teach their children the word of God? They don't obey the word of God and they don't teach their children God's way. Therefore we don't agree and celebrate with them.

***Is in the bible mentioned that God said “Do not obey your fathers?”*** It is mentioned in *Ezekiel 20:18* that God said to the children not to obey their fathers ***“I said to their children in the desert, “Do not follow the statutes of your fathers or keep their laws or defile yourselves with their idols.”*** Therefore if you as parents are not following the word of God in your life, then the Lord will tell to your children not to follow your wrong ways. Therefore when the world celebrate a mother and father days to honour parents who does not live for God then when we as church celebrate that with them then we are agreeing with the wrong practices and the idol worships that people in the world are doing.

What we teach then is this: If the parents are non believers and are not following God then we teach their children to show respect to them and to help them in their physical needs, but not to follow their ways and honours their tradition and ways of life as it contradict the word of God.

***“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Hebrews 13:7,17)*** The parents who fear God and follow His ways are the model leaders for the children to learn from and follow and due for them honour, respect and submission.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** This is God's command ***“Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:32)*** God commanded that because the elderly supposed had spent their lives to teach their children the word of God and raised them in the fear of the Lord. You will receive the same honour and respect as you abide with God's will and be willing to do your part to be good parents to raise up your children in God's ways as you agree to pray.

***My Prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself not to celebrate as the world celebrate, but I dedicate my life as father/mother to raise my children in the fear of God by providing their physical needs and by teaching them your words and your ways. Lord enable me and provide for me to do that well, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*