

Connect Group Notes 9 May 2010 Honour Your Mother and Father – Ps Phil Pringle

Ephesians 6:2-3 (NKJV). "Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.'"

In **Ephesians 6:2-3** the apostle Paul is quoting the Fifth Commandment, urging and reminding the church to honour one another. Seeking to honour and please your mother and father is a behaviour modifier. It causes you to ask yourself questions. Would my action or decision please them? Would they be ashamed of me if I do this thing?

When couples and families begin to harmonise and agree and be unified in their faith and vision, God can move and bless and answer prayers. **Hebrews 11:11** speaks of the promise of a child and many descendants to Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament. Initially they laughed and responded with disbelief. In time however they began to embrace the promise by faith, to harmonise in the vision together and then miraculously Sarah conceives.

Matthew 18:19 speaks of the power of agreement by two or more in prayer and God answering these prayers. In **1 Peter 3:7**, Peter instructs husbands to honour their wives .. that their prayers may not be hindered. By not honouring your mother and father, by not honouring your wife or your husband, you hinder God's work in your life, your relationships and your family.

We should seek to be at peace with one another. In agreement. Forgiving, loving, preferring, honouring. Seeking to express our gifts and individuality in God, but together with others as a symphony. The secret of unity is a common vision. Standing together and looking at and believing for the same things. The devil is a hinderer. If he can get you as a couple or a family or a church or in any of your relationships to be in disagreement and disharmony and not focusing on the bigger picture, then your prayers may be hindered and God's work hindered in your life.

When we look through the Old Testament, time and time again people failed and sinned and families and relationships broke down. Abraham had a 'messed up' family, but by the grace of God he became the father of faith. Time and time again God redeemed and forgave and restored those who turned around and put their trust in Him. Out of much chaos God brought order. Every generation and family had and has a level of dysfunction, but by honouring God and one another, the blessing and goodness and power of God can prevail.

TALK ABOUT

- **Ever asked the question, 'Why isn't my life working?' Were you honouring your mother and father?**
- **Ever felt like your prayers were not being heard or answered? What did you do about it? Was something you were doing wrong hindering them ?**

REPORTING <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

Connect Leader Training

Please remember that Connect Leader Training is coming up at the Oxford Falls Campus on Sunday 23rd May and on Tuesday 25th May. Training starts on Sunday at 11am or Tuesday at 7.30pm, both held in the Glasshouse and only 2 hours long. And don't forget, its free of charge! Please send your assistant leaders and any up and coming leaders to the training for them to be equipped to run a connect group. It's also a great refresher for all connect group leaders. RSVPs can be sent to connect@myc3church.net.

