# *Honor Your Father and Your Mother*

… which is the first commandment with a promise.

God often gets our attention with a promise. They are all through scripture. God promises many things to His children, but the vast majority of them are *conditional promises.* In other words, He promises us blessings based on the giant word "IF."

In fact, my mother seemed to understand the process in Deuteronomy 5:16 even though we did not grow up in a church family.

> "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

Yes, mom let us know with great certainty that IF we, as little kids, intended to spend more time on earth, we had better honor her with love and obedience. So long as we did that, life was *far sweeter!* When we did not, life was usually a painful misery! (Are all moms born knowing how to use a thin switch on the back the legs?)

Yet, we loved mom deeply and unconditionally. We knew that joy or sorrow was *not* dependent on *her,* but on *our* behavior. We could trust her beyond question. And we knew she loved us and was a just and loving guide to get us to maturity with a careful understanding of how the world works.

Not surprisingly, the more I learn about Jesus, the more I realize just how much my mom was like Him – tender and loving toward obedient children, yet stern with those who would hurt her children.

What a great joy it is when we reach the age where we honor our moms with cards and calls and care and love for all she did for us during our formative years. ***Maybe this year it is time for a special card, a special gift, a few extra roses and a much longer hug or phone call or visit than usual. If your mom has passed on, hug someone else's mom!***

Ray Wallace