

The commandment: Honor your father and your mother, is from God's love

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The commandment: "Honor your father and your mother", is a consequence of love for God and neighbor, because you cannot love your neighbor without loving your parents.

Honoring father and mother is not only respecting them, but also assisting them in their needs; providing them with rest in old age; surround them with solicitude, as they did for us in childhood.



God wanted to demonstrate, therefore, that love is necessary to combine respect, esteem, obedience and condescension, which implies the obligation to fulfill towards them, in a more rigorous way, everything that charity determines in relation to the neighbor. This duty naturally extends to people who are in the place of their parents, and whose merit is all the greater, as devotion is less obligatory for them. God always strictly punishes every violation of this commandment.

Is it just then that old and weak parents should have to serve young and strong children? Had the mother charged him for the milk when they were still in the crib? Had she, by any chance, recounted her waking nights when they were sick, her steps to provide them with the care they needed? No, it is not only the strictly necessary that children owe their poor parents, but also, as much as they can, the small joys of the superfluous, the kindness, the affectionate care, which are only the interest on what they have received, the payment of a debt sacred. This alone is filial piety accepted by God.