



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### RELATIONSHIP (WITH PARENTS)

Fr. Peterson Tieng  
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Parenting is an awesome responsibility that involves a child's physical, emotional and spiritual welfare; it is the toughest job a person can have. Therefore, it is only right and just that parents should be appreciated, honored, respected, obeyed and loved. Indeed, God has promised many blessings and benefits if we do all of these.

#### 1. Why should we love, thank, honor and obey our parents?

- 1.1 Our parents have practically shared their lives with us. They have given us the education we need and have continued to care, counsel/share their wisdom through experiences/lessons in their own lives.
- 1.2 Our parents are God's co-creators. God used them to give us life. If we owe God our lives, we also owe our parents our lives.
- 1.3 God Himself chose our parents. There is no way that God made a bad choice nor a mistake in His choice.

#### 2. How can we show gratitude to our parents?

- 2.1 Reverence and Honor. We should have an inner spirit of reverence which should be manifested through our external actions.
  - 2.1.1 We need to speak politely to our parents and show them courtesy in our actions. As Filipinos, we practice "*pagmamano*" and say "*po*" and "*opo*". and respectfully asking permission to leave the house.
  - 2.1.2 We should do our best to keep the good name/reputation of our parents. We must make our parents proud by being upright.
  - 2.1.3 We commit sins/offenses against reverence: when we are ashamed of our parents; when we retort with offensive speech; and when we treat them with contempt.
- 2.2 Obedience. Obeying our parents is accepting God's pre-ordained hierarchical order of creation.

2.2.1 Obeying our parents pleases the Lord (Colossians 3:20)

2.2.2 If our parents are asking us to do something wrong or immoral, we are not bound to obey.

2.2.3 We sin against obedience when we disobey a just command, obey grudgingly, give harsh retorts, and scorn a good counsel.

2.3 Love and Gratitude. Filial love must be grateful love, that is, we need to be thankful for their sacrifices and acknowledge their love for us.

2.3.1 Being grateful to our parents makes us also appreciate what we have. Expressions of gratitude not only strengthen our relationship with our family, but they also promote optimism in our own life.

2.3.2 Sins/offenses against love and gratitude happen when we harbor hatred against our parents, speak ill/curse them, and refuse to talk to them (at times). Moreover, when they are old and alone, we forget to visit or even write a letter to them. The worst of all is to deny the support they desperately need.

#### 3. Why do honoring and respecting our parents bring blessings?

3.1 Exodus 20:12 tells us that if we honor our parents, we will have a long peaceful life in the land where God has blessed us.

3.2 Sirach 3: 1-15 cites blessings of atonement for our sins (v. 3) and gladdened by our own children (v. 5). Hence, our prayers are heard (v. 5) and serve as a sin offering (v. 14).

**CONCLUSION:** Our parents are not perfect, but instead of focusing on their mistakes and failures, let us direct our attention on their goodness. Thus, let us focus on the love that God has shown us through them. This is right and just!

**REFLECTION:** What have we done lately that made our parents feel loved and honored?

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Te Florentino  
Editor: Sis Vera I. Tuplano  
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