

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: How should we treat our parents in their old age?

Our society is fixated on seeing to the needs of self. Parents are increasingly ignoring their roles as fathers and mothers in pursuit of their own selfish desires. Children are sorely lacking in respect for their parents, and this lack of respect and honor extends to the mistreatment of parents in their golden years by their children. The Bible teaches children to honor father and mother (Ephesians 6:1-2). This certainly includes obedience in the formative years of a child's existence before he/she leaves to form his/her own home, but it also includes seeing to the needs of one's parents as they are less able to care for themselves. So many want to pawn off the responsibility to care for parents on others. This is really nothing new.

Jesus stated, "But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye" (Mark 7:11-13). The Jews understood by the law of Moses that they had a Divine obligation to care for their aged parents. However, many of them attempted to circumvent this command by giving their money to the temple as a gift, calling it Corban. They would then be left with nothing by which to care for their parents, and the obligation would fall to others. While it may seem a noble thing to give all of one's possessions for the good of the work of God, these did so under false pretences. They would supposedly give all they had to the temple, where the priest would take his portion, and then would give back what remained to the donor, only after allowing sufficient time to show that the donor no longer had the means to care for his aged parents. Such was a despicable practice, yet it was carried out in the name of religion, and condoned by those who should have known better. The Jews came under the condemnation of Jesus for attempting to avoid responsibility to their parents, and so will we for doing likewise.

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at sixthavenue@bellsouth.net, or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.