The Fellowship Room

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by John T Polk II For The Fellowship Room

(#191) The Proverbs of Solomon 28:24- Robbing "The Greatest Generation"

Proverbs 28:24:

Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, 'It is no transgression,' the same is companion to a destroyer.

Respect for parents keeps civilization alive. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12) is repeated in the Law of Jesus Christ:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. '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.' (Ephesians 6:1-3)

It is this endearing quality in humanity that is the backbone of an enduring society. In addition to our fathers passing along to us "life," they should have "corrected *us*," and we should have "paid *them* respect" (Hebrews 12:9). But the commandment honors both father "and mother!" A mother's womb is a person's first safe house where God develops it (Psalm 139:13-16), and while unborn, the baby has not done "any good or evil" (Romans 9:11). The "fruit of the womb" is our inheritance from God (Psalm 127:3), and only godless, vicious people would "have no pity on the fruit of the womb" (Isaiah 13:17-18).

It's too bad in our society; often it is honoring one or the other parent, or neither at all! Whether we break into their houses and rob their possessions, or stealing our time away from them, or letting greedy government take their earnings, when and how do we honor our parents? Because they have lived through deprivation and destruction, they have been termed "the greatest generation." But do they deserve our dereliction of duty to "honor" them? Not just that generation, but also each generation that includes our parents deserves our "honor" and "respect." The Israelite Nation rejected God's Son (John 1:11-12), and their destruction also included what they had done at home:

Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. (Mark 13:12)

What have we done to either protect or rob our parents? No child should dishonor its parent(s) and pass it off by saying "it is no transgression"— because it is! No society can last that disrespects its parents!

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