



Word of God Speak: God Places High Value on the Elderly

You shall rise before the gray-headed and honor the aged. Leviticus 19:32

The bible is full of Scripture that reminds us, or better yet, emphasizes the value that God places on His older and beloved generation. Proverbs 16:31: *Gray hair is a crown of splendor: it is attained in the way of righteousness.* Proverbs 20:29: *The glory of young men is their strength, And the honor of old men is their gray hair.* Psalm 92:14: *They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green.*

Now that we see the value that God places on the elderly, let's look at His instructions concerning relationships and caring for those with gray heads.

Adult Children

Ephesians 6:1-3 commands: *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'-which is the first commandment with a promise, 'so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.'"* Exodus 20:12 has a similar message: *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."*

We may think that these scriptures apply to the relationship young children and teens should have with their parents. How many of us have quoted this scripture to our children when they were being disrespectful to Mom or Dad? Perhaps now the tables have turned. Have you ever interpreted this scripture as God's instruction for an adult child who is caring for an elderly parent? Consider this: *Obey* means to do as one's told, but *honor* means to respect and love.

Spouses

God reveals that *"marriage is to be held in honor among all"* in Hebrews 13:4. From God's perspective, it is a covenant between a man and a woman that binds them together for life—for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health. In Genesis 2:18, we read: *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone: I will make him a helper suitable for him.'"* Synonyms for helper include assistant, helpmate, right-hand man/woman, partner, and yes, caregiver.

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All Caregivers

First Corinthians 12:12, 20-26 instructs all caregivers. Often the elderly become the weaker and suffering members of the body, but as we are instructed, all must care for one another.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. . . As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Words of Encouragement: No matter where you are on your caregiving journey, I invite you to reflect on God's biblical message. Caregiving is not for the faint of heart and can be overwhelming at best and paralyzing in its most challenging moments, BUT you are not alone. It is refreshing to see how much value God places on the elderly, and that He has given us specific instructions on how to treat them. By this, God has laid the foundation for caregivers and gives us our *why* as we care for His geriatric population.

In Him,

Robyn

See more on this topic in [Transforming the Mundane into Sacred: Spirituality in Caregiving for the Elderly, Chapter 2 God Places High Value on the Elderly](#)

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