



parents

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DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Prager explains the deeper meaning of the Fourth Commandment, that, "...If you build a society in which children honor their parents, your society will long survive. And the corollary is: A society in which children do not honor their parents is doomed to self-destruction." What exactly is the relationship between honoring parents and society thriving- how does one affect the other? What factors in a society that doesn't honor it's parents would contribute to it's collapse?
- Mr. Prager points out that, "...many of the best-educated parents do not believe that their children need to show them honor, since "honoring" implies an authority figure, and that is a status many modern parents reject," and that, "A father and a mother who are not honored are essentially adult peers of their children. They are not parents." Why is this distinction between being a parent versus being an adult peer so important to a healthy family dynamic? Why do you think that so many parents reject the idea of being an authority figure?
- Later, Mr. Prager shares with us that, "...honoring parents is how nearly all of us come to recognize that there is a moral authority above us to whom we are morally accountable. And without this, we cannot create or maintain a moral society." Why is it so important to be morally accountable to a higher authority? What is the correlation between moral accountability on an individual level and the moral health of a larger society?
- Mr. Prager points out another important reason for honoring parents, in that, "Honoring parents is the best antidote to totalitarianism. One of the first things totalitarian movements seek to do is to break the child-parent bond. The child's allegiance is shifted from parents to the state." How do you think that it is possible for a young person to shift their allegiance from parents, whom they trust and love, to a government? What sinister tactics do you think that a totalitarian state would use to turn children against their parents?
- Mr. Prager shares with us that, "...there are many ways to honor parents. The general rule is this: They get special treatment." Why should parents get special treatment? How does treating parents in a special way honor them and strengthen a child's bond with them? What are some ways that you have honored your parents?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: 'Friend-Parents'

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article "Why, as a parent, you should never be tempted to treat your child as a friend," then answer the questions that follow.

- What is a 'friend-parent?' What does the Professor Byron warn will happen to a child's development without boundaries and chores, and thus accountability?
- In the article, Dr. Sigman states, "...There is the feeling that by saying 'no' to your children or being in charge somehow damages your relationship with them."
What factors do you think contribute to parents feeling this way? Why are parents so insecure that they are afraid of their children not loving them anymore if they discipline them? Surely these same parents didn't stop loving their own parents, or honoring them, when they were disciplined, so where do you think this insecurity comes from?
- Why is such egregious coddling of children so bad for them? What are the consequences for these children later on? How does this type of parenting affect a child's ability to abide by the Fourth Commandment?



QUIZ

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

1. What sets the Fifth Commandment apart from the other commandments?
 - a. It is the easiest to keep.
 - b. It is the most difficult to keep.
 - c. It encompasses all of the other commandments.
 - d. It gives a reason for observing it.

2. The Bible tells us that we have to both love and honor our parents.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. What status do many modern parents reject?
 - a. Authority figure
 - b. Friend
 - c. Employer
 - d. Peer

4. A society in which children do not honor their parents _____.
 - a. will slowly progress
 - b. is doomed to self-destruction
 - c. will be no different than a society who honors their parents.
 - d. is better off than a society who honors their parents.

5. Why is honoring parents so important?
 - a. We, as children, need it.
 - b. It's how we recognize there's a moral authority above us.
 - c. It's the best antidote to totalitarianism.
 - d. All of the above.



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2176791/Why-parent-tempted-treat-child-friend.html>

Why, as a parent, you should never be tempted to treat your child as a friend

- **Being a 'friend-parent' will leave youngsters ill equipped for real world warns TV psychologist**

By [Liz Hull for MailOnline](#) and [Sarah Harris](#)

Published: 18:14 EST, 20 July 2012 | Updated: 22:16 EST, 20 July 2012



Friend parents: Professor Tanya Bryan, who featured on BBC series *House of Tiny Tearaways* claims children tend to be badly behaved if their parents try to be their friend first

A generation of children are growing up badly behaved because their parents are too afraid to discipline them, a leading clinical psychologist and broadcaster has warned.

The rise of the so-called 'friend-parent' – who tries to be their child's equal rather than their boss – means youngsters are approaching adolescence ill-equipped for the real world, according to Professor Tanya Byron.

Professor Byron, who featured on the BBC series *House of Tiny Tearaways*, said she is treating children at her clinic with behavioural problems as a direct result of such parenting tactics.

She said: 'Children as young as six are brought to my clinics by parents who are anxious that any time they try to set a boundary, the child becomes distressed.'

'In this age of the "friend-parent", such children are then swaddled, protected and essentially regressed for fear of upsetting them.'

She said parents are so preoccupied with getting their children on their side that they are waiting on them hand and foot – denying them important life skills.

She said: 'What's happened to chores, a family being a team, with everyone having their key jobs?'

'I treat children of eight and nine who, while attending intellectually challenging schools, cannot take themselves to the toilet or clean themselves afterwards, or who don't dress or feed themselves independently – never mind know how to tie a shoelace.'

She warned that without boundaries and chores, a child's development could be impaired.



Bad behaviour: According to clinicians children could grow up being badly behaved if a parent treats them as an equal

'Children who have every need catered for remain at an immature stage of emotional intelligence and, as young adults facing a challenging world, can only regress back to the safety of the childhood home,' she said.

Psychologist Dr Aric Sigman said the ‘friend-parent’ phenomenon could be explained by the fact that women are choosing to start families when they are older.

He said: ‘There is the feeling that by saying “no” to your children or being in charge somehow damages your relationship with them.

‘Parents today, in particular mothers, are much older than ever before. They are also likely to be working as well.

‘The result is children are seeing their parents for less hours a day, so if the children start displaying challenging behaviour because they haven’t had the attention they need, they feel guilty and let it go, rather than disciplining them for it and risk them getting upset.’



Picking up the pieces: Teachers say they are left to deal with children who think they can do what they want because of bad parenting

Dr Mary Bousted, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers union, said schools were left to pick up the pieces.

‘Schools are having to deal with children who haven’t been toilet trained, children who expect to always get their own way and have never been told “no”.

‘Parents aren’t doing their children any favours if they wait on them hand and foot, try to buy good behaviour or make up for lack of attention with toys and gadgets.

‘They need to have the confidence to set rules, make their children help around the house, and encourage them to become independent to enable them to become confident and capable adults.’