Honor Your Mother and Father

A Spiritual View on the Challenges of the Fifth Commandment

By Rabbi Shais Taub

Honoring Parents as a Form of Worship

The honor due to our parents is not a social obligation but a mode of worship.

Incorrect Grouping of the Ten Commandments

Notice how the commandments are unevenly divided (four on one side and six on the other) in order to place honoring one's parents on the second tablet.

G-D

- 1. Do not worship any Other G-d's
- 2. Do not make any idols
- 3. Do not misuse the name of G-d
- 4. Keep the Sabbath Holy

MAN

- 5. Honor your father and mother
 - 6. Do not murder
- 7. Do not commit adultery
 - 8. Do not steal
 - 9. Do not lie
 - 10. Do not covet

Correct Grouping of the Ten Commandments

The commandments are now evenly divided between the two tablets with the fifth commandment of honoring one's parents on the first tablet.

G-D

- 1. I am the L-rd your G-d
- 2. You shall have no other gods
- 3. Do not take G-d's name in vain
 - 4. Remember the Shabbat
 - 5. Honor your father and your mother

MAN

- 6. Do not kill
- 7. Do not commit adultery
 - 8. Do not steal
- 9. Do not bear false witness
 - 10. Do not covet

