

tough QUESTIONS

how do you honor an abusive parent?

Question:

How do you honor a parent that is abusive and unwilling to let go of the past? Or has an unforgiving/bitter spirit?

Let's look at what Scripture says about "honor."

- Exodus 20:12
- Deuteronomy 5:16
- Matthew 19:19
- Ephesians 6:1-3

Honor

Heb. *kabed* –

Gk. *timao* –

What is Abuse?

Webster: Improper use or treatment

Wikipedia: To unfairly or improperly gain benefit

Swindoll: Taking unfair advantage of a difference in power, for self-serving purposes, in order to take control of another's spirit, intellect, body, or heart.

Most abuse stems from someone using power in order to attain or keep something he or she deems essential.

I Samuel 20: 30-34

You honor an abusive parent by:

1. Re-aligning Your False _____ with the Truth

False Beliefs

Truth

- | | |
|--|---|
| • If I were more _____, he wouldn't do this. | • Since I am a reasonably competent human, I can't be provoking this anger all by myself. |
| • If I understood her _____, this wouldn't happen. | • When he gets out of control, it's because he has not stopped a process that began hours, or days ago. |
| • If I had been more _____, I'd have seen it coming. | • She has what it takes to learn to be kind and to express anger constructively. |
| • If I _____ better, she wouldn't get so angry. | • He is responsible to learn about himself and the process that leads to abuse. |

The victim tends to take responsibility for the abuser's moods and actions. Such over-responsibility on one's part is disrespectful to the abuser, because it suggests that he doesn't have what it takes to control himself – that he must be controlled from the outside, and you must be the one to do it.

2. Establishing Sensible _____

Conclusion:

We must always speak the _____ in _____.

Source: *Counseling Insights: A Biblical Perspective on Caring for People*