

**IT TAKES RESPECT FOR THE AGED**  
**(Ephesians 6:2,3)**

**Introduction:**

1. What do all these famous and successful people have in common?
  - a. Ray Kroc built McDonalds into the world's largest fast food chain.
  - b. Harland Sanders built the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain.
  - c. Benjamin Franklin served in the Continental Congress of the USA.
  - d. Ronald Reagan served two terms as president of the USA.
  - e. The answer: they did these things when they were senior citizens!
  
2. We live in a youth centered culture.
  - a. Americans above all other nationalities fear old age.
  - b. Billions are spent annually on plastic surgery, pills and cosmetics.
  - c. The Bible teaches age is a blessing from GOD.
  
3. Our "youth culture" has ill effects on the elderly.
  - a. Many young adults discount the achievements of the elderly.
  - b. There is a growing movement toward euthanasia for the elderly.
  - c. Many children no longer honor their aged parents.
  
4. The family as GOD ordained it has provisions built in for all ages.
  - a. Parents care for their children when children are unable to care for themselves.
  - b. Husbands and wives care for one another as long as they are able.
  - c. Children care for their parents when they unable to care for themselves.

**Discussion:**

- I. GROWING OLD IS A NATURAL PROCESS.
  - A. Aging began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve lost the right to the Tree of Life (Gen. 3).
  - B. All who live long enough will grow old.

"The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psa. 90:10).
  - C. Life passes quickly:

1. **Jacob told Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage” (Gen. 47:9).**
2. **Job said: “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and are spent without hope. Oh, remember that my life is a breath” (Job. 7:6,7).**
3. **James wrote: “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit,’ whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:13,14).**

**D. Death is certain.**

1. **The wise man said: “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die” (Eccl. 3:1,2).**
2. **The writer of Hebrews says: “It is appointed for man to die once, but after this the Judgment” (Heb. 9:27).**
3. **Eliphaz said of the righteous: “You shall come to the grave at a full age, as a sheaf of grain ripens in its season” (Job 5:26).**

**II. GOD DEMANDS THAT THE AGED BE RESPECTED.**

**A. The Scriptures teach that wisdom comes with age.**

**“You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your GOD: I am the LORD” (Lev. 19:32).**

**“Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding” (Job 12:12).**

**B. Rehoboam lost ten tribes because he listened to the advice of the young rather than the old (1 Kings 12:1-16).**

**III. CHILDREN HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR AGED PARENTS.**

**A. The fifth commandment is “Honor your father and your mother”**

(Exod. 20:12; Eph. 6:2,3).

**B. Jesus accused the Pharisees of rejecting this commandment (Mk. 7:9-13).**

1. They had a tradition that if one said to his parents that his property was “Corban” he did not have to help them.
2. “Corban” means “dedicated to GOD.”
3. They nullified GOD’s commandment by their tradition.
4. They were guilty of sin for not caring for their aged parents.
5. Paul wrote: “If any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before GOD.... But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Ti. 5:4,8).

#### **IV. PEOPLE IN OLD AGE CAN STILL BE PRODUCTIVE.**

**A. Consider the elderly in the Bible after the Patriarchal Age.**

1. Moses was 80 when he began his life’s work and was active until his death at the age of 120 (Deut. 34:7).
2. Joshua was at least 70 when he was made the leader of Israel and continued until he died at 110 (Josh. 24:29).
3. Caleb at 85 conquered Hebron (Josh. 14:6-15).
4. Daniel was still serving in his 90’s.
5. John was probably 90 plus when exiled on Patmos (Rev. 1:9).

**B. Consider some of the aged saints in our day:**

1. Perry B. Cotham still traveled to mission fields in his 90’s; he published Beyond the Sunset at age 95.
2. Mack Lyon continued on “In Search of the Lord’s Way” until he was 90.
3. Burton Coffman wrote his 37 volume commentary on the Bible after the age of 65 and completed it when he was 87.
4. There is no retirement age for Christians!

#### **Conclusion:**

1. GOD’s plan for the family requires respect for the older generation.
2. Solomon said: “The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness” (Prov. 16:31).
3. Are you in the way of righteousness?

