How to 'How' Our Parents?

Honoring our parents is a Biblical mandate and is deeply rooted in the Chinese mindset. In Confucius thought, parents are expected to be kind to their children and their children "how" their parents. Confucius said, "When parents are alive, care for them properly. After they died, bury them properly and worship them properly."

Many remember to do the right thing only after the parents died. They bury their parents in a blessed ground. They mourn bitterly. They burn paper money, cars, mansions, servants and other necessities and favors for the deceased. They worshiped their parents and ancestors hoping to receive blessings in return. That is the reason the sinologist translate the word *how* as Filial Piety.

We should not worship our ancestors but we can holdfast to some of the Chinese values. Here is how to *how* our parents:

1. We should love and care for our parents – Before Jesus died on the cross, he asked John to care for his mother. Love them when they are still alive.

2. We should respect our parents – Tsang Tze said, "There are three levels of *how*: to provide, not to shame, and respect. The highest level is respect."

3. We should obey our parents – Parents may be old fashioned and stubborn at times, however, we should appreciate their wisdom and experience. It makes our parent feel good even we don't agree with them at times.

4. We should expend our love to others parents -- Jesus said, "Whoever does God's will are my brothers, sisters and mothers." Confucius said, "Love your own parents as well as other parents."

Let us pray: Dear Lord, help us to how our parents and please send special blessings to all the mothers on this Mother's Day. Amen.

怎樣才能盡孝

孝是聖經的誡命，孝也早已在中國人的心中扎了根。孔子在五倫的關係中指出父母對子女要慈愛。子女對父母要盡孝。他說：「生，事之以禮。死，葬之以禮又祭之以禮。」

很多人到父母死後才實行孝道。找個好風水的墓地去安葬先人，又悲痛地大哭守孝，更燒紙造的汽車，洋房，僕人，錢幣等，以示孝思。每天燒香禱告以求先人的祝福，把人倫的孝帶到宗教的領域上了。

基督徒不能敬拜別的神，我們應在父母在生的時候克盡孝道:

1. 照顧父母 - 耶穌在十架上都沒有忘記叫約翰去照顧祂的母親。我們對父母日常之所需，都應細心照料。

2. 孝敬父母 - 曾子說：「孝有三：大孝尊親，其次弗辱，其下能養。」由此可見尊敬父母是何等的重要呢!

3. 孝順父母 - 父母漸年老, 也許因成長的背景與兒女不同，易產生所謂的 "代溝"， 常令人覺得他們古板及固執，但我們不可忘記他們有著豐富的人生經驗和智慧，順從他們不但能使自己獲益良多，更能使他們老懷歡慰。

4. 推己及人 - 耶穌說：「凡遵行上帝旨意的，便是我的兄弟，姊妹及母親。」孔子也說：「老吾老，以及人之老。」教會中，社會上，須要我們關心的老人家多著哩！

請禱告：主啊，請幫助我們去盡孝，在這母親節中，求祢大大的賜福天下的慈母吧！阿們。