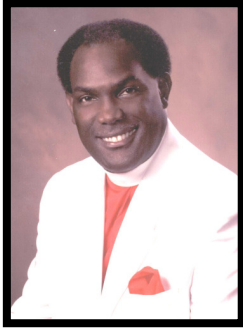


Ask Bishop Dennison



Q. My siblings and I have been discussing options for caring for our elderly parents. Their health has deteriorated to a point that it is a hardship (physically and economically) to care for them at home. We are all raising young children in our respective homes and none of us are able to afford around-the-clock nursing care. We understand that the bible commands us to honor our parents and we want to do just that. Is admitting one's parents to a nursing home dishonoring them? Please provide us with a biblical perspective on our situation.

A. The bible does teach us in Ephesians 6:2, “Honor your father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.” If your family was in a position to offer around-the-clock care for your parents, I’d strongly suggest that this would be the route to take. However, I do not believe that you are dishonoring your parents in any way by placing them in a nursing home. To honor means to attach high value to something or someone. For you to see to it that your parents are properly cared for is attaching high value and is indeed an honorable thing. Here are a few things to consider as you discuss this with your family:

- 1. Seek the best nursing home facility that you can find that will provide the loving and professional care that your parents deserve.**
- 2. Seek a facility that is conveniently located within close proximity to one of the siblings’ home, if possible.**
- 3. Develop a plan so that a sibling or responsible family member can visit your parent daily.**
- 4. Once a facility has been chosen, encourage family members to develop rapport with the staff.**
- 5. Be observant and pay attention to the care that is being administered.**

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