

Honor Your Father and Mother That You May Live a Long Life

Bill Cosby used to say to his kids when they acted up, "I brought you into this world and I can take you out!" Wisdom comes with age. Neuroscientists are discovering that it takes older men and women longer to make decisions than younger people. Why is that? You might think it is because the young person's brain works faster. Why doesn't that old man drive faster? Why is that old woman taking so long to pick out her stuff? These are complaints we have heard and said. The reason appears increasingly that the cause for their delay is wisdom. It takes them longer to make decisions that a younger brain makes more quickly due to the amount of data the older brain has stored and has to process prior to making a decision compared to the amount of data available to a younger brain.

Think of it this way. If you only had a few bites of information to base your decision on you would try to make the best decision on the basis of the information you had available. What if you had two or three times as much data? What if you had years of additional data based on years of experience? Mark Twain said, "Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, experience comes from poor judgment."

Honoring your father and mother so you may live longer means many things both theologically and psychologically, but one of the things it means is listening to the voice of wisdom that comes from experience even if the experience was bad and mistakes were made. Each generation has the opportunity to learn from the previous one even if they don't take advantage of the opportunity. Otherwise as one historian has said, "those who don't learn from history are condemned to repeat it."

[When does a brain become adult?](#)