

Dear Jordan,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You wanted to know how you should behave toward your mother who repeatedly “curses” you and gives you “verbal abuse.” You said you pray constantly about this situation. However, your mom continues with her abusive behavior and “is filled with anger and hate.” Since the Bible says to “honor your mother,” you wondered if we would be able to give you some direction and advice.

We must first tell you that we are not counselors, but we can perhaps offer you some suggestions and direction. Assuming that your mother is a Christian, we recommend that you address your concerns and ask her to tell you why she is struggling with anger and hate that is manifested in verbally abusive behavior toward you. Tell her that her behavior is hurtful and confusing to you. Ask if you are in some way contributing to the problem and that you are willing to make the necessary changes needed to improve your relationship with her. Also ask if there are other underlying reasons for her behavior of which she has no control and if you might in some way be of assistance.

We would strongly recommend Christian counseling for both you and your mother, either together or separately as abusiveness of any kind has no place in a Christian household. Perhaps, with counseling and prayer the issues that have caused your mother to use verbal abuse as a coping mechanism will be brought to the fore and, over time, each of you will learn to communicate your needs in a more positive manner. It is important to remember that you are a role model to all who observe you, especially your mother, so you should always try to exemplify good Christian character by your words and actions. “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (Romans 12:17-18)

We hope our suggestions will prove useful to you. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio