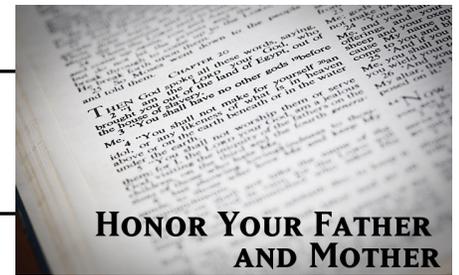


The Fourth Commandment



**HONOR YOUR FATHER
AND MOTHER**

Introduction

Joe's parents have given him a curfew of 10 pm. He obeys his parents, but he pouts about having a curfew and complains about it every chance he gets. Joe's dad has to drive through a long section of town where the speed limit is 25 mph. He obeys the speed limit, but he constantly gripes about it to his neighbors and friends. Joe's little sister has a Sunday school teacher who requires her to memorize a portion of the catechism and a Bible passage every week. She does the memory work, but she lets the whole family know how much she hates having to do it. What problem do these three members of Joe's family all have in common?

Opening Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I have indeed transgressed your commandments. I have been impatient in trials. I am unsympathetic and unmerciful. I do not help my neighbor. I am unable to resist sin. I do not tire of doing wrong. Dear Lord, pour out your grace on me and give me your Holy Spirit to help me to avoid dishonoring or angering my parents and others in authority. Help me to honor my earthly superiors so that I will be obedient to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Lesson Aim: What does God teach us about those whom he has placed in authority over us?

Part One

Read Exodus 20:12.

- 1) What is the Fourth Commandment?
- 2) Compare this commandment with the others listed in verses 13-17. What does this command include that all the others don't?
- 3) How does honoring and respecting one's parents bring blessings to children?

Read Proverbs 23:22, Colossians 3:20, and Ephesians 6:1-4.

- 4) God has placed people in authority over us in the home, in the workplace/school, at church, and in society in general (government). But governments differ from one society to the next, not everyone goes to church, some people don't have jobs or go to school. Therefore, the authority that people are most familiar with is the authority in the home. Who most commonly are the ones God has placed in authority in the home?
- 5) What attitude should all have toward these authority figures in our lives?
- 6) What responsibility do parents have toward their children?

Read Luke 2:41-52.

- 7) What did Jesus' parents do every year?
- 8) How does this show their respect and honor towards authority?
- 9) What happened as they left Jerusalem?

- 10) Why was the temple a logical place to find Jesus?
- 11) How did Jesus' answer in verse 49 show respect and honor toward his parents?
- 12) What did Mary and Joseph not understand about Jesus?
- 13) How do these verses describe Jesus' action toward his parents throughout his childhood?
- 14) The perfect Son of God was obedient to his imperfect and sinful parents. What can we learn from him?

Read 1 Timothy 5:8 and Ephesians 6:1-4.

- 15) Based on these passages, how does God intend to bless us through parents and authorities in the home?

Read Hebrews 13:7, 17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, and 1 Timothy 4:16.

- 16) Based on these passages, how does God intend to bless us through our pastors and other authorities at church?

Read Romans 13:1 and 1 Peter 2:13-14.

- 17) How does God intend to bless us through good government?

Read Ephesians 6:5-8.

- 18) How does God intend to bless us through authorities in the workplace or school (bosses or teachers)?

KEY POINT 1 - God wants me to respectfully obey those whom he places over me to provide blessings for my body and soul.

What I've learned so far:

Part Two

Read Romans 13:1-7.

- 1) Who is the one who established the authority of every government?
- 2) So what is someone who rebels against the government really rebelling against?
- 3) What should we do if we do not want to fear the governing authorities?
- 4) If we do wrong, what has God given government the authority to do?

Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21.

- 5) What is one way that we break the Fourth Commandment?

6) How can you tell that God takes this sin very seriously?

Read Proverbs 30:17.

7) What is another way that we break the Fourth Commandment?

Read Proverbs 13:24 and Hebrews 12:11.

8) Define discipline.

9) What must parents and others in authority do when we disobey them?

10) What motivates a parent to discipline their child?

Read Proverbs 19:18 and Proverbs 23:13-14.

11) When a parent disciplines a child, it is done with the hope that the child is spared from which greater punishment?

KEY POINT 2 - God wants those whom he places over me to discipline me so I stop sinning and so my soul won't be lost in hell.

What I've learned so far:

Part Three

Study questions 63-78 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

1) Whom does God want us to respect?

2) What two types of blessings does God want to give us through his representatives?

3) With thankfulness that Jesus died to pay for our sins against the Fourth Commandment, what does this commandment lead us to want to do?

Helpful Passages

Leviticus 19:32—Respect for people in society should be intended not only for elected officials and civil servants, but also for elders in general.

Acts 5:29

When is the one circumstance in which we should disobey those in authority over us?

2 Timothy 3:1-5

With what kinds of sins does this passage rank disobedience to parents?

Where do you see the description from this passage in the world around you?

Main point — God wants me to honor and obey those in authority over me so that my life in this world of sin may go as well as possible with even some measure of enjoyment as long as I live.

Final considerations:

- 1) God wants us to honor our parents and superiors because ____ .
 - A. obedience to authority is the basis of a strong and stable society.
 - B. they are his representatives through whom he would give us his blessings.
 - C. it shows our appreciation for them and glorifies God.

- 2) We honor our parents and superiors when we ____ .
 - A. regard them as God's representatives, love them, pray for them, and willingly serve and obey them.
 - B. do what they ask of us.
 - C. encourage them and try to make it easier for them to carry out their responsibilities.

- 3) The greatest priority for parents in raising their children is ____ .
 - A. bring them up in such a way as not to force them to do anything they don't want to do.
 - B. teach them to be responsible and live on their own.
 - C. provide for their bodily needs, and above all, to instruct them in God's Word.

- 4) When we disobey our parents and superiors, they should ____ .
 - A. correct us as God's representatives and punish us because of the consequences of our actions.
 - B. rebuke us, but never use corporal punishment.
 - C. just try to be a friend and let us do it again if we want to.

- 5) Agree or disagree: A Christian will be glad when he is disciplined.

- 6) What evidence do you see that the world despises this commandment?

- 7) What authority figures do you have trouble honoring? Why?



What I've learned:

Commit to Memory:

- The Fourth Commandment with Luther's explanation.
- The Ten Commandments—Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5