

The Fifth Commandment

Introduction:

What is the fifth commandment? *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.* (Exodus 20:12)

Q104. What is God's will for you in the fifth commandment?

- A. That I honor, love and be loyal
to my father and mother
and all those in authority over me;
that I submit myself with proper obedience
to all their good teaching and discipline;
and also that I be patient with their failings –
for through them God chooses to rule us.
(*The Heidelberg Catechism*)

What might be hindering you from seeking the Lord's will for you in the fifth commandment? What past failures (your own or another's) might be interfering? Spend some time acknowledging this before the Lord.

Cultural Context:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Biblical Context:

1. Transition in the ten commandments from loving God to loving others.

"Love for God must come first. We cannot truly love one another unless we love God. If we do not respect God, we will not respect one another. So we can hardly begin to keep the last six commandments until we learn how to keep the first four." (*Written in Stone: The Ten Commandments and Today's Moral Crisis* by Phillip Graham Ryken, p.118)

2. "In telling us how to treat one another, God starts with our families. Loving our neighbor starts at home."
(Ryken, p.118)

3. This commandment comes with a promise:

Deuteronomy 5:16

Ephesians 6:1-3

Bible Study:

1. Who establishes authority?

Romans 13:1-2

2. To whom else are we to show honor?

1 Peter 2:13-14, 17

Hebrews 13:17

Leviticus 19:32

3. How do we show honor to our parents, in-laws and others?

Proverbs 23:22: *Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.*

Leviticus 19:3: *Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.*

1 Timothy 5:8: *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Colossians 3:12-14: *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Matthew 7:12: *So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

Honoring the Dishonorable (Tim Challies):

1. *Distinguish between honor and obedience.*
2. *Distinguish between the person and the position.*
3. *Distinguish between honor and relationship.*
4. *Distinguish between honor and agreement.*
5. *Distinguish between honor and enabling.*

Conclusion:

How have you seen the Lord at work helping you to honor and obey those in authority over you? How have you failed to honor and obey those in authority over you? What might you ask the Lord to help you change?

“God does not accept us on the basis of what we have done, but on the basis of what Jesus has done.” (Ryken, p. 132)

Resources used to prepare this study:

1. *Written in Stone: The Ten Commandments and Today's Moral Crisis* by Philip Graham Ryken
2. *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds: Family Devotions Based on the Shorter Catechism* by Starr Meade
3. *Comforting Hearts, Teaching Minds: Family Devotions Based on the Heidelberg Catechism* by Starr Meade
4. Challies, Tim. “The Commandment We Forgot: Honoring the Dishonorable.” *Tim Challies*. N.p., 05 Jan. 2017. Web. 15 Jan. 2017.