

**THE BOUNDARY of HONORING THOSE IN AUTHORITY**

- Intro:** -.The second table of the law deals with love for neighbor for God's sake: It is rooted in the love of God.  
 - At the head of the second table of law we can expect the discussion of the relationship in the home. It is foundational.  
 - The Catechism rightly expands and applies the teaching to all relationships of authority and obedience.

**I. THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY****A. Wrong ideas today.**

1. The world often associates authority with physical power, might, strength, and ability.
2. Rather, authority is a spiritual power given or vested in a person
3. Authority is the right to impose one's will and will over another.

**B. God's sovereign rule.**

1. God as Creator is Lord over all and rules over all creation.
2. God has conferred all authority to his Son in our flesh in his Ascension.
3. God in Christ delegates his authority in the various spheres of life.
4. Texts that teach this:

**C. Implications of this:**

1. Not to obey those in authority over us is not merely rebellion against those persons, but against God!
2. Those who rule and have authority should recognize that they rule for Christ and according to his precepts.
3. All those who rule will give an account of their labors to God.
4. Not all those in places of authority stand in that position by grace, do not acknowledge God or his law.
5. Still we must honor them as God's ministers.

**II. HONORING THOSE IN AUTHORITY****A. The various areas:**

1. The home.
2. The school.
3. The church.
4. The civil government.
5. The place of employment.
6. Those who are older than us.

**B. Are there exceptions or limitations?**

1. Many are the times when parents, teachers, bosses, and government officials make mistakes or sin grievously.
2. This does not allow us to rebel or mock or refuse to obey.
3. God calls us to bear patiently with the infirmities of those who rule over us. Honor them in the role God has given.
4. Only if they command us to do that which is sinful, we respond, "We must obey God rather than man."
5. But even in this we must honor them in their position!

**III. THE PROMISE ATTACHED****A. The promise of long life.**

1. The promise to God's OT people who in the way of obedience would live long in the land of promise as a type.
2. The promise realized in Christ of life in the new heavens and new earth.

**B. Christ Jesus is God's obedient servant.**

1. Christ Jesus by his obedience to his Father in his death has earned for you and me eternal life.
2. Christ Jesus by his word and Spirit works the new life of obedience in us as we show our thankfulness to God.