

THE COMMANDMENT TO HONOR PARENTS

March 7, 2021

I Peter 2:13-25

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12

God chose Abraham as the one through whom His Son would come to save us from sin. Abraham ruled his household, and his son Isaac and grandson Jacob each ruled their respective households as kings, priests and prophets.

When Jacob died, his descendants living in Egypt were ruled by Egyptian governments. When they departed Egypt centuries later, there was no government ruling them. Thus, God gave them the Ten Commandments to ensure social harmony and civility, but especially to address the spiritual needs of Israel, yea, of every soul.

God sequenced the Ten Commandment in an instructive progression that will, if heeded, always produce spiritual, social and national harmony and security. Today we focus upon the fifth commandment, “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Consider:

I. The Place of the fifth Commandment among the other commandments

First:	There is one God. He alone is to be worshipped.
Second:	Worship Him without misrepresentation/distraction: No graven image
Third:	Reverence everything about Him: Do not use His name carelessly
Fourth:	Remember His genius and might in all creation: Observe the Sabbath
Fifth:	Respect His authority structure within humanity: Honor your parents
Sixth:	Respect and preserve life: Do not kill
Seventh:	Respect the divine institution of marriage: Do not commit adultery
Eighth:	Respect other’s property: Do not steal
Ninth:	Respect other’s reputation: Do not bear false witness
Tenth:	Be content with what you have: Do not covet

II. The Purpose for the fifth Commandment

Q. 124. Who are meant by “father” and “mother,” in the fifth commandment?

A. By father and mother, in the fifth commandment, are meant not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; especially such as, by God’s ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, Church, or commonwealth.

Q. 125. Why are superiors styled “father” and “mother”?

A. Superiors are styled father and mother, both to teach them in all duties towards their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents.

Q. 126. What is the general scope of the fifth commandment?

A. The general scope of the fifth commandment is, the performance of those duties which we mutually owe in our several relations, as inferiors, superiors, or equals.

Q. 127. What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?

A. The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defence, and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.

Q. 128. What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?

A. The sins of inferiors against their superiors are, all neglect of the duties required toward them; envying at, contempt of, and rebellion against, their persons and places, in their lawful counsels, commands, and corrections; cursing, mocking, and all such refractory and scandalous carriage, as proves a shame and dishonor to them and their government.

Q. 129. What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?

A. It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reproving, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body: and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.

Q. 130. What are the sins of superiors?

A. The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, an inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful, or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counseling, encouraging, or favoring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; or any way dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior.

Q. 131. What are the duties of equals?

A. The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each other's gifts and advancement as their own.

Q. 132. What are the sins of equals?

A. The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement or prosperity one of another; and usurping preeminence one over another.

III. The Promise of the Fifth Commandment

“ . . . that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”