

Ten Commandments (Part 31)  
(The Fifth Commandment – Part 2)

I. The Essential Requirement of the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

A. The Persons in View

-Natural, domestic fathers and mothers; political fathers; spiritual fathers; other fathers

B. The Honor Due

-The Virtues Enjoined

**Question #127:** *“What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?”* **Answer:** *“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, defense, 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.”*

**Question #131:** *“What are the duties of equals?”* **Answer:** *“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 others gifts and advancement, as their own.”*

→ Honor, Love, Faithfulness, and Obedience toward one’s superiors and peers

-The Sins Prohibited

**Question #128:** *“What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?”* **Answer:** *“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.”*

**Question #132:** *“What are the sins of equals?”* **Answer:** *“The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement of prosperity one of another; and usurping pre-eminence one over another.”*

→ Disrespect, Opposition, Unfaithfulness, and Disobedience toward one’s superiors and peers

Practical Lessons

- 1) Obedience to the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment will put us on a collision course with the radical egalitarianism of our day.
- 2) Obedience to the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment is necessarily positive in nature.
- 3) Obedience to the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment is a very serious matter.