

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 123-124. Golden Rule includes respecting rulers.

Main Point of Texts: Even while Stephen and Paul were unjustly treated, they still honored the office of their persecutors.

Sermon Point: *Show respect.*

Move 1: Honor your father and your mother.

LC: “natural parents ... by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority”:

- *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother ...* (Eph. 6:1-2)
- *Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old ... The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.* (Prov. 23:22, 25).
- *For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:* (Mar 7:10 re: Ex. 21:17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 21:18-21).

Move 2: Honor men and women with more age and experience.

LC: “... all superiors in age and gifts”: “Father” and “mother” infer a greater meaning:

- Age: *Rebuke not an elder* [context: older man], *but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.* (1 Tim. 5:1-2); Older usually have more to teach/model. Experience applies to office: no novices (1 Tim 3:6).
- Gifts: But also, “Let no man despise thy youth, but be an example to all ...” 1 Tim. 4:12

Move 3: Honor your authorities in church and state.

LC: “especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in ... church, or commonwealth”:

- Church officers: 2 Kings 2:12; 13:14. Acts 7:2; 22:1. Hebrews 13:17.
- Commonwealth; WCF 23. 1 Pet. 2:17; Titus 3:1; Rom 13:1.

Conclusion:

Show respect.