

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Fifth Commandment
“Honor Thy Father!”
Exodus 20:12

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Exodus 20:
 - Where We Come To:
 - The Fifth Commandment:
 - In Verse 12 - Where We Read These Words:
 - “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee!”
2. There Are Many Who Believe:
 - That The Fifth Commandment:
 - Would Have Begun:
 - The Second Tablet Of Stone:
 - Upon Which The Ten Commandments:
 - Were Originally Inscribed By The Lord!
 - And - As Such:
 - It Would Begin The Commandments:
 - That Describe What A Person's Relationship Should Be:
 - With Other People!
 - However - There Are Others:
 - Who See A Close Connection:
 - Between This Commandment:
 - And The First Four:
 - That Describes What A Person's Relationship With God:
 - Should Be Like!
 - Either Way - This Commandment:
 - Like The Others:
 - Is Still Profitable To Us For Doctrine:
 - Because It Reveals God In A Special Way!
 - That Is - It Reveals God As A Father!
3. God Is The Original Father:
 - And Has A Special Place In His Heart:
 - For This Kind Of Relationship:
 - That Exists Within The Pinnacle Of His Creation:
 - Of Human Beings!
 - Because - Before:
 - There Was Any Other Institution In This World:
 - God Designed The Institution:
 - Of The Family!
 - On The Sixth Day Of Creation:
 - In Genesis 1:26-28 - “God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. / So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. / And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth!”
 - God's Command To Adam & Eve:
 - To “Be Fruitful, And Multiply” - Was God's Establishment:
 - Of The Family!
 - With The Husband As Father & With The Wife As Mother:
 - To The Children God Would Bless Them With!
4. And So - To The Parents:
 - God Bestowed - Not Only:

- A Special Responsibility:
 - Over Their Children – But:
 - A Special Honor:
 - From Their Children As Well!
- And - What Children:
 - Owe To Their Parents:
 - Simply Because:
 - They Are Their Parents!
 - So Everyone Owes:
 - To The Lord:
 - Simply Because He Is God & The Father Of Us All!

5. So - Tonight:
- As We Remember & Honor:
 - Our Earthly Fathers:
 - On This Father’s Day!
 - Let Us Also Remember & Honor:
 - Our Heavenly Father!
 - And So - First - We Can See:

1. *God’s Reputation As A Father!*

- Or Rather - As “The” Father!
 - To Be A Father - Someone Must Have A Child!
 - And The Same Is True For God!
 - To Be A Father - He Must Have A Child - And In This Case - He Has A Son!
 - Because God Is:
- An Everlasting Father!
 - This Means That:
 - The Personal & Powerful God:
 - Has Always Had A Son!
 - God Never *Became* A Father:
 - Like I Became A Father!
 - Instead - God Is & Always Has Been A Father!
 - This Is Part Of His Immutable & Unchanging Nature!
 - According To 1 John 1:1-3 - Jesus Christ:
 - Is & Always Has Been The Son Of God The Father!
 - “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; / (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) / That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ!”
 - And What A Relationship This Is & Has Always Been!
 - A Relationship Of Love & Harmony & Unity!
 - It Is Still A Great Mystery To Us!
 - But God Is An Everlasting Father!
 - He Is Also:
- An Extensive Father!
 - Because He Is The “Maker Of All Things”:
 - The Bible Teaches That In A Certain Sense:
 - He Is The Father Of Everything & Of Everyone!
 - The Prophet Malachi Implies This When He Asks:
 - 2:10 - “Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?”
 - But What Has Man Done To This Father?
 - Mankind Has Renounced This Relationship:
 - And Sought Out A Father Of A Different Character!
 - And The Devil Was All-Too Ready To Adopt Those Who Orphaned Themselves From God!
 - And Now - According To John 8:44:

- “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do!”
- And God Could Very Easily Have Left Us To This Wicked Father!
 - But Instead - We Find God To Also Be:
- An Empathetic Father!
 - God Sought Us Out:
 - So That He Can Adopt Us Back Into His Family!
 - And He Does So Because He Is:
 - A Loving Father!
 - 1 John 3:1 - “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God!”
 - A Compassionate Father!
 - Psalm 68:5 - “A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation!”
 - A Caring Father!
 - Matthew 7:11 - “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
- Do You Know God As This Kind Of Father?
 - God Only Becomes Your Heavenly Father:
 - When You Believe In & Receive His Only Begotten Son As Your Savior!
 - But Then - You Can Discover:

2. ***God’s Relationship As The Father!***

- It Was God:
 - Who Sought You Out To Become His Child!
- It Was God:
 - Who Chose You To Be His Child!
 - 1 Peter 1:2 - “Elect / Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father!”
- It Was God:
 - Who Called You To Be His Child!
 - 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 - “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty!”
- It Is God:
 - Who Comforts You As His Child!
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 - “Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, / Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work!”
- And It Is God:
 - Who Chastens You As His Child!
 - At Times - Hebrews 12:5-7 - “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: / For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. / If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”
- When God Adopts You Into His Family:
 - You Can Experience This Kind Of Relationship:
 - And This Kind Of Fellowship:
 - Forever! So - What Should Be:

3. ***Our Response To God The Father?***

- Because Of The Kind Of Father He Is:
 - We Find Several Responses In The Bible!
- We Should Always:
 - Thank Him!
 - For Being Our Father!
 - Colossians 3:17 - “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him!”
- Have You Thanked God:

- For Choosing & Calling You To Be His Son Or Daughter In Jesus Christ?
- We Should Always:
 - Trust Him!
 - Matthew 7:11 - "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"
 - Are You Trusting God As Your Father & Provider!
 - One Way To Know If You Are Is When You:
 - Turn To Him!
 - As Your Father!
 - In Bad Times & In Good Times!
 - When You Have A Need:
 - Or When You Have Plenty!
 - You Simply Turn To Him:
 - And Go To Him:
 - Because - As Romans 8:15 Reminds Us:
 - "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father!"
 - And - As Galatians 4:6 Tells Us:
 - "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father!"
 - But The Greatest Response That You Can Have:
 - Toward God As Your Father:
 - Is This:
- We Should Always:
 - Love Him!
 - As Samuel Stone Wrote:
 - None else we love! for sweeter grace
That made anew a ruined race:
The heirs of life, the lords of death,
With earliest voice and latest breath,
When days begin, when days are done,
Bless we the Father for the Son!

Conclusion:

- 1, And - When You:
 - Love God & Trust God & Thank God:
 - As Your Heavenly Father:
 - You Honor Him:
 - In The Spirit Of The Fifth Commandment!

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