

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

Introduction:

1. In Exodus 20:12:
 - We Find The Fifth Commandment:
 - Which Says:
 - “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee!”
2. Heeding This Commandment:
 - Is The Very Foundation:
 - Of A Healthy Family:
 - A Healthy Society:
 - And Even - A Health Church!
 - Someone Once Observed:
 - “As Goes The Family, So Goes The Nation!”
 - D. James Kennedy:
 - Who Pastored The Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church:
 - In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, For Almost 50 Years:
 - Made Similar Observations!
 - He Said - That In The Decades Of His Ministry:
 - He Had Seen Numerous People Fired:
 - But - “Poor job performance was very rarely the reason. In most cases, the problem was one of attitude, a rebellion against authority. Why? Because they never learned respect for authority at home!”
 - He Added That:
 - There Are Many Historical Examples Of This As Well!
 - “Persia became the second of the great world empires because Persians trained their children to be obedient. But eventually things changed, because the Persians had grown wealthy, which brought about a relaxed discipline, which led, in turn, to sin and then to the downfall of the nation!”
 - The Roman Empire As Well:
 - Rose To Prominence - “Principally to the Patria Potestas – the absolute total rule of the father over the son – which was enforced as long as the father and son should live. That iron discipline enabled the Romans to conquer the entire known world. But then, like the Persians and Greeks before them they forgot all about the importance of honor and respect for parents and produced such monsters as Nero. Nero who murdered his own mother. Rome was swallowed up by God’s judgement in history.”
3. This Shows That:
 - The Commandments Of God:
 - Are Not Just Of A Spiritual Nature:
 - But Are Of A Practical Nature As Well!
 - Those Who Heed Them & Obey Them:
 - Though They Can Never Be Justified Before God By Them:
 - As We See In The Book Of Romans!
 - Yet - They Can:
 - “Live By Them!”
 - And Live Well!
 - We See This Even In The Blessing:
 - That Is Promised In This Commandment!
 - “That Thy Days May Be Long Upon The Land Which The LORD Thy God Giveth Thee!”
 - Following God’s Way Of Living:
 - Is Never Wrong:
 - And - In Many Ways & At Many Times:
 - Can Provide Blessing In Your Life!
 - In Proverbs 6:20-23 - We Are Told:

- "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: / Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. / When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. / For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life!"

- The Father's Commandment & The Mother's Law Referred To Here:

- Are The Commandments Of The Lord That They Taught To Their Children!

4. So - There Is A Great Blessing:

- To The Family & To The Society:

- When Children:

- "Honor [Their] Fathers And [Their] Mothers!"

- So The Reason We Don't See:

- More Of This Blessing:

- Is Because We Have Failed To Follow This Commandment To Its Fullest Extent!

- And So - This Commandment:

- Is Also Profitable For Our "Reproof!"

- To Show Us That:

- We Often Act Contrary:

- To What Has Been Given To Us:

- For Our Own Benefit & Blessing & Good!

- Isn't This How Paul Describes:

- God's Law:

- In Romans 7:12?

- "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!"

5. So - Tonight:

- I Would Like For Us First:

- To Explore:

- The Extent Of The Honor:

- In The Fifth Commandment!

- That Is:

- Who All Are We To Honor:

- When It Says:

- "Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother!"

- Of Course:

- First And Foremost:

- This Applies To:

1. Our Heavenly Father!

- Which Is What We Saw Last Sunday!

- God Is The Original Father:

- Because He Is The Eternal Father:

- Of His Son, Jesus Christ!

- Since All Of Eternity:

- There Has Been This Special Bond & Relationship:

- Between God The Father & God The Son!

- But - God Is Also The Original Father:

- To All Those He Created:

- And - In A Special Way:

- To All Those He Redeemed!

- And Yet - How Many Of Us:

- Fail To Honor Him The Way He Deserves?

- God Himself Notices This:

- In Malachi 1:6 - When He Asks - "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you!"

- We Need To Seek God's Grace & Help:

- To Honor Him - As Our Heavenly Father:

- In The Way He Is Due!

- But - This Commandment Also Applies To:

2. ***Our Natural Fathers & Mothers!***

- Of Course - This Is The First Thing We Think Of:

- When We Hear Those Words!

- "Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother!"

- This Is Something We Are Taught Even A Children!

- Not Just From The Old Testament:

- But - In The New Testament As Well!

- Who Can Forget Learning:

- Ephesians 6:1-2 - "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. / Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)"

- But - How Many Times:

- Have We Refused To:

- Obey And Honor Them:

- Even When We Are Promised Great Blessing For Doing So!

- Ephesians 6:3 - "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth!"

- How Many Times:

- Have We Sought After Blessing:

- But Refuse To Follow:

- The Means Of Blessing:

- Given To Us By God Himself?

- But - There Is More To Honoring Our Natural Parents:

- Than Just Obeying Them:

- As Young Children Or As Children:

- Who Remain In Their Parents Home!

- We Are To Honor:

- Our Aging Parents!

- In Mark 7:9-13 - Jesus Confronted The Hypocrisy Of The Pharisees:

- By Pointing Out That They Were Using Their Traditions To Avoid Obeying This Commandment:

- To Honor Their Parents Even As Adults!

- "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. / For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: / But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. / And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; / Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye!"

- The Pharisees Believed That If They Devoted Any Of Their Resources To The Lord:

- Then They Were Exempt From Using Those Resources To Help Their Parents, Who Might Be In Need!

- But - The Truth Is - There Is No Age Limit:

- To This Command To:

- Honor Our Fathers & Our Mothers!

- The Dynamic Of Our Relationship:

- May Change Over Time:

- But We Are To Always Make Purposeful Effort To Honor Our Parents While They Are Yet Alive!

- But Also - We Are To Honor:

- Our Other Parents!

- You Know - The Ones Whose:

- Son Or Daughter You Married!

- Your In-Laws!

- "In-Law" Jokes Are Common:

- But Are **Not** Honorable!

- Instead - Consider How Moses:

- Treated His Own Father-In-Law:

- Jethro, The Midianite!
- In Exodus 4:18:
 - He Sought The Blessing Of His Father-In-Law To Return To Egypt With His Family To See How The People Of God Were Faring!
- In Exodus 18:7
 - When He Returned To Meet With His Father-In-Law, After A Long Absence - We Are Told That “Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent!”
- In Exodus 18:24:
 - When Moses Grew Weary Of Serving As The Sole Judge Of His People - His Father-In-Law Gave Him Some Good Advice - To Share His Burden With Others!
 - And How Did Moses Respond?
 - “So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said!”
- Moses Honored His Father-In-Law:
 - And So Should We!
- But Even More - We Are To Honor:
 - Our Extended Parents!
 - In 1 Timothy 5 - The Apostle Paul Is Giving Instructions To The Church:
 - Concerning Our Treatment Of Those Who Are Widows!
 - And - In 5:3-4 - He Writes:
 - “Honour widows that are widows indeed. / But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God!”
 - The Word Translated “Nephews” In The KJV:
 - Can Also Refer To:
 - The Grand-Children Of The Widow!
 - So - Honoring Your Parents:
 - Extends Even To Your Grand-Parents:
 - Especially When You Are A Christian!
- Is There Some Room For You To Grow:
 - In How You Honor:
 - Your Own Natural Parents?
 - In Know There Is For Me!
 - What About You?
 - But - Is This All That The Fifth Commandment:
 - Can Apply To?
 - Our Heavenly Father & Our Natural Parents?
- I Think The Puritan Preacher, Thomas Watson:
 - Had It Right In His Comments:
 - About The Fifth Commandment:
 - When He Said That There Are Other Fathers & Other Mothers:
 - That Deserve Our Honor As Well!
 - Such As:

3. ***Our Political Fathers And Mothers!***

- In The Bible - The Titles “Father” & “Mother” Are:
 - Used For Others As Well!
- In Isaiah 49:23:
 - We Are Told That:
 - “Kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers!”
- Among The Children Of Israel:
 - Their Kings:
 - Were Often Described:
 - As Fathers!
 - And Even Deborah:
 - One Of Their Judges:
 - Said That She “Arose A Mother In Israel!” (Judges 5:7)
- So - Even Political & National Leaders:

- Ought To Be Honored:
 - For The Role They Play In God's Governance In This World!
- In Romans 13:1-5 - Paul Explains:
 - What Our Honor Should Look Like - "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. / Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. / For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: / For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. / Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake!"
 - We Are Also To Honor:
- 4. ***Our Ancient Fathers And Mothers!***
 - That Is - Those Who:
 - By Age - Have Also Gathered Wisdom!
 - But - Regardless Of The Wisdom:
 - Of The Elderly:
 - In Leviticus 19:32 - The Children Of Israel Were Told:
 - "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD!"
 - We Are To Honor The Fathers And Mothers Of Others:
 - Not Only For Their Seniority - But Especially For Their Spirituality!
 - Thomas Watson Makes This Comment:
 - "It Is A Blessed Sight To See Springs Of Grace In The Autumn Of Old Age; To See Men Stooping Toward The Grave, Yet Going Up The Hill Of God; To See Them Lose Their Color, Yet Keep Their Savor! They Whose Silver Hairs Are Crowned With Righteousness, Are Worthy Of Double Honor!" – "If You See An Old Man Fearing God, Whose Grace Shines Brightest When The Sun Of His Life Is Setting, O Honor Him As A Father, By Reverencing And Imitating Him!"
 - Is This How You Treat:
 - Those Fathers And Mothers:
 - Who May Not Even Be Your Own:
 - Who Are Nearing The End Of Their Pilgrimage In This World?
 - Even The Great Apostle Paul:
 - Rendered Honor To A Mother:
 - In The Church - When He Sent Greetings:
 - In Romans 16:13 - To - "Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine!"
 - We Are Further To Honor:

5. ***Our Spiritual Fathers And Mothers!***

- Those Who Led Us **To** The Lord:
 - And - Those Who Lead Us **In** The Lord!
- Those Who Lead Others:
 - **To** The Lord:
 - Are Described As Spiritual Parents!
 - In His Letters:
 - To Both Titus & Timothy:
 - The Apostle Paul Addressed Them Both As:
 - His "Sons" In The Faith!
 - More Than Likely:
 - God Used Paul:
 - As The Primary Instrument:
 - To Lead Them To The Lord!
 - He Was A Spiritual Father To Them:
 - And Was To Be Honored!
- But - The Bible Also Describes:
 - Those Who Lead Us:
 - **In** The Lord - As Spiritual Parents!
 - Pastors & Elders & Teachers!

- In 1 Corinthians 4:14-15:
 - Paul Wrote To The Entire Corinthian Church These Words:
 - “I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. / For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. / Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me!”
- The Honor Our Spiritual Fathers And Mothers:
 - Are Due - Paul Describes In:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; / And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves!”

Conclusion:

1. As You Can See:
 - The Fifth Commandment:
 - Is A Rather Extensive Commandment!
 - It Applies To Fathers And Mothers:
 - Of All Kinds!
2. Is There Room:
 - For You To Grow:
 - In How You Honor:
 - These Parents?
 - To Dis-Honor:
 - Your Parents Is Sin!
 - However - This Is A Sin:
 - That Jesus Came To Forgive As Well!
3. Perhaps Tonight:
 - You Need To Reconsider:
 - Your Own Relationships:
 - With The Parents & Authorities:
 - God Has Placed In Your Life!
 - And Ask The Lord:
 - To Forgive You:
 - Of Your Dis-Honor - And:
 - To Help You:
 - “Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother” In A Way:
 - That Will Honor & Please:
 - Your Father In Heaven!

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