

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Fifth Commandment
“In Favor With God And Man”
Luke 2:52; Exodus 20:12

Introduction:

1. As We Return In Our Bibles - Once Again:
 - To Exodus 20 - We Find:
 - In 20:12 - The Fifth Commandment:
 - Of God’s Moral Law:
 - Which Reminds Us To:
 - “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee!”
2. This Commandment:
 - Is An Important Commandment:
 - Because - It Remains - Even Today:
 - The Very Foundation:
 - Of A Healthy Family:
 - A Healthy Society:
 - And A Healthy Church!
3. However - From Our Own Experience:
 - We Know Just How Hard It Is:
 - To Keep & Obey This Commandment:
 - From The Heart!
 - In Fact - When We Hold Up:
 - The Mirror Of God’s Law:
 - And See Ourselves The Way God Sees Us:
 - We Realize Just How Sinful We Are:
 - And - How Many Ways We Have *Not* Honored Our Fathers And Our Mothers!
 - And - Not Just Our Parents:
 - But The Other Authorities:
 - God Has Placed In Our Lives As Well!
4. Well - Tonight:
 - We Can Rejoice:
 - That There Is One Who Came:
 - To Keep And To Fulfill:
 - This Commandment - Completely:
 - For Us!
 - And - That One Is:
 - None Other Than:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Not Only Is He:
 - The Example:
 - For Us - By Keeping This Commandment!
 - He Is Also:
 - The Enabler:
 - Of Us - To Keep This Commandment:
 - Out Of Love!
5. So - Just As We Learned Last Sunday - About:
 - The Great Extent:
 - Of The Fifth Commandment:
 - Tonight - We Are Going To Look At:
 - The Great Example:
 - Of The Fifth Commandment:
 - Through The Life Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And - The First Thing We See:
 - Is That - The Obedience Of Christ:
 - To - “Honor His Father & His Mother” - Was:

1. *A Perfect Obedience!*

- Jesus Honored All:
 - Of The Appropriate Authorities In His Life:
 - As A Boy & As A Man:
 - In This World!
 - Of Course - First And Foremost:
- Jesus Honored His Heavenly Father!
 - Even From A Young Age:
 - Jesus Knew That There Existed:
 - A Unique & A Special Relationship:
 - Between God The Father And Himself!
 - Turn With Me To Luke 2:
 - Where We Are Given This Brief Look:
 - Into The Child-Hood Years Of Jesus:
 - When He Was Just 12 Years Old!
 - Luke 2:40-52 - Where - After Returning To Nazareth - We Are Told That Jesus - “The child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. / 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. / 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. / 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. / 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day’s journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. / 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. / 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. / 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. / 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. / 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”
 - We’ll Stop There For Now!
 - But We See That - Even At 12 Years Of Age - Jesus Understood That - In A Unique Way - God **The** Father Was **His** Father!
 - And - Even Though We Cannot Fully Understand The Nature Of Their Divine Relationship:
 - Yet - Even Jesus, As God The Son, Honored God **The** Father, As His **Own** Father, Perfectly!
 - In John 8:28-30 - We Are Told This About Jesus:
 - “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. / And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. / As he spake these words, many believed on him!”
 - Jesus Said - In 8:30 - “I Do Always Those Things That Please Him!”
 - Now - It’s One Thing:
 - To **Say** This - But It’s Another Thing Entirely:
 - To **Live** This!
 - Well - Not Only Did Jesus:
 - **Say** He Honored His Father:
 - He Could **Show** It As Well!
 - All Throughout His Life:
 - Jesus Followed After:
 - The Will & The Word:
 - Of His Father!
 - In His Prayer:
 - That He Taught His Disciples:
 - He Prayed - “Thy Will Be Done – In Earth As It Is In Heaven!” (Matthew 6:10)
 - And Then - In The Garden Of Gethsemane:
 - In His Own Prayer:
 - He Prayed - “O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done!”
 - And When The Time Came:

- For Him To Be Arrested & Led Away:
 - “As A Lamb To The Slaughter” - He Honored His Father:
 - By Following His Will:
 - Perfectly!
- And As Jesus Honored His Father:
 - He Did So - To “Fulfill [The] Righteousness”:
 - We Were **Unable** To Fulfill:
 - In Our Relationship With God!
- But - Not Only Did Jesus:
 - Honor His **Heavenly** Father:
- Jesus [Also] Honored His Earthly Father & Mother!
 - His Earthly Parents Were, Of Course:
 - Joseph & Mary!
 - In Luke 2:41 - They Are Even Called - “His Parents!”
 - However - Though Mary:
 - Was Jesus’ Mother Through Birth!
 - Joseph:
 - Was Jesus’ Father By Adoption:
 - And Would Have Taken Care Of Him As His Own!
 - In Luke 2:48 - Their Love & Care For Jesus:
 - Is Clear - When Mary Said To Him:
 - “Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing!”
 - But - Even Though Jesus’ Response:
 - In 2:49 - Reveals That He Understood:
 - His Relationship To Both Fathers:
 - Yet - How Does He Respond To Mary & Joseph?
 - Luke 2:50-52 - “They understood not the saying which he spake unto them. / And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. / And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man!”
 - In 2:51 - We See That Jesus:
 - Honored His Earthly Parents:
 - By Being “Subject Unto Them!”
 - And - Even Though We Have:
 - Just This Single Episode:
 - In The Childhood Of Jesus - Yet It Is Likely Given To Us:
 - To Show How He “Obeyed His Parents In The Lord” Throughout His Early Life!
 - But - There Are Other Hints & Examples:
 - Of Jesus’ Honoring His Earthly Parents As Well!
- He Honored His Earthy Father, Joseph:
 - By Following In His Footsteps:
 - As A Carpenter!
 - In Matthew 13:54-55 - “When [Jesus] was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? / Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?”
 - The People Of Nazareth Knew Who Jesus’ Earthly Father Was & What He Did For A Living! Joseph Was A Carpenter!
 - But Then - In A Parallel Passage - In Mark 6:3 - The Question Is Asked A Bit Differently - “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him!”
 - Now - Instead Of Seeing This As A Contradiction - We Should See This As A Complementary Account! More Than Likely Some Called Him The Carpenter’s Son, While Others Called Him The Carpenter!
 - This Shows Us That Jesus Followed In The Footsteps Of Joseph As A Carpenter Himself!
 - He Would Have Learned From Joseph & Worked With Joseph!
 - Imagine What Their Bond Must Have Been Like, As They Crafted Things

Together Out Of Wood!

- Though It Was A Humble Occupation, Yet Jesus Was Not Ashamed Of It, Or Of Him! But Also:

- He Honored His Earthly Mother, Mary:
 - Especially By Making Sure Her Needs Would Be Taken Care Of:
 - Even While He Was Hanging On The Cross!
 - In John 19:25-30 - We Read - "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. / When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! / Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. / After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. / Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. / When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost!"
 - One Of The Last Things Jesus Said & Did Concerned His Mother, Mary:
 - Who - At That Moment - Was Experiencing What Old Simeon Had Prophesied At Jesus' Birth - "Yea, A Sword Shall Pierce Through Thy Own Soul Also!" (Luke 2:35)
 - And So - Jesus Did Not Neglect:
 - His Responsibility:
 - To Honor & To Care For:
 - The Needs Of His Mother:
 - Even In The Most Heart-Breaking & Soul-Breaking Moments Of Both Their Lives!
 - And - In These Ways:
 - Jesus Honored His Father & His Mother:
 - To "Fulfill [The] Righteousness":
 - We Are **Unable** To Fulfill:
 - In Our Relationship With Our Own Parents!
 - But - Then - Even Further:
- Jesus Honored His Political Fathers!
 - Even Though He Was "King Of Kings & Lord Of Lords!"
 - Yet - He Recognized The "Powers That Be" That Were "Ordained Of God!" (Romans 13:1)
 - And Honored Them Appropriately!
 - When Jesus Was Being Questioned:
 - In Mark 12-13-17 - We Read - "And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words. / And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? / Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it. / And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's. / And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him!"
 - But - Not Only Did Jesus Encourage Others To Honor The Political Authorities:
 - Jesus Honored Them Himself!
 - Later In Matthew 17:24-27 - "And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? / He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? / Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. / Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee!"
- In All Of These Ways:
 - Jesus Honored The Human Authorities In His Life:
 - With Perfect Obedience!
 - Not Just In His Actions:

- But In His Attitudes As Well!
- But - Not Only Was His Obedience:
 - To The Fifth Commandment:
 - A Perfect Obedience:
 - It Was Also:

2. *A Proven Obedience!*

- Mark Jones Once Wrote This:
 - “Adam Broke The Ten Commandments In The Garden! But Christ Kept The Ten Commandments In The Wilderness!”
- Consider This For A Minute!
 - The Garden Of Eden:
 - Was A Perfect Paradise For Adam & Eve!
 - And Yet - They Disobeyed God In The **Best** Possible Circumstances!
 - “Adam Broke The Ten Commandments In The Garden!”
- But - When Jesus Came From:
 - The Paradise Of Heaven:
 - This World Was A Wilderness:
 - For His Pure & Holy Soul!
 - How Must His Heart:
 - Have Grieved:
 - Over The Utter Brokenness Of His Creation!
 - This Broken World & Our Broken Souls!
 - And Yet - Under The **Worst** Possible Circumstances:
 - Jesus Obeyed His Heavenly Father!
 - “Christ Kept The Ten Commandments In The Wilderness!”
- But - Lest We Think:
 - That He Was Not Tested:
 - In His Obedience & In Honoring:
 - His Father - Remember What We Are Told In Hebrews 4:15 - “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin!”
 - Jesus Was Tempted!
 - Jesus Was Tried!
 - Yet - Jesus Was Able To Triumph:
 - And Honor His Father In Heaven!
 - Jesus’ Obedience:
 - Was A Proven Obedience!
 - But - It Was Also:

3. *A Prioritized Obedience!*

- Throughout His Life & Ministry:
 - Jesus Even Shows Us What It Means & What It’s Like:
 - To Honor Our Fathers & Our Mothers:
 - In A Fallen World!
 - If There Were Authorities:
 - Who Were Doing Things Or Commanding Things:
 - Contrary To The Will Of God The Father:
 - Jesus Knew What He Had To Do!
 - Even If That Authority Was His Own Mother!
 - The Priority For Jesus:
 - Was Always:
- The Words Of His Heavenly Father!
 - As We Find In John 12:49:
 - “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak!”
 - And So - When Other Authorities:
 - Sought To Control Or Curtail:

- The Words & The Teachings Of Jesus:
 - Jesus Kept Speaking & Sharing The Word Of His Father!
- In Mark 3:31-33:
 - There Was A Time In The Earliest Part Of Jesus' Ministry:
 - When His Mother Came To Him!
 - "There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. / And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. / And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?"
 - Most Commentators Believe That When Jesus' Family Came To Him:
 - It Was, For One Reason Or Another, To Get Him To Keep Silent - Especially In What He Was Saying To The Powerful Religious Leaders!
- But - For Jesus:
 - The Priority Of His Obedience:
 - Belonged To His Heavenly Father:
 - Over Any Human Authority!
 - His Priority Was Also:
- The Works Of His Heavenly Father!
 - As We Read In John 5:16-17:
 - When - "The Jews persecute[d] Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. / But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. / Therefore the Jesus sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God!"
 - Since Jesus Was:
 - The "Lord Of The Sabbath" - He Was Able:
 - To Do The Work Of His Father:
 - On The Sabbath!
 - Though The Religious Leaders:
 - Condemned Jesus For His Work:
 - Yet - On That Day & On Every Day - The Priority Of His Obedience:
 - Still Belonged To His Heavenly Father:
 - Over Any Other Human Authority!
 - And This Priority:
 - Carries Over To Us As Christians!
 - When The Authority Of Man:
 - Is In Conflict With:
 - The Authority Of God:
 - The Priority Of Our Obedience Belongs:
 - To The Lord!
 - As Peter & The Other Apostles Said:
 - In Acts 5:29 - "We ought to obey God rather than men!"

Conclusion:

1. Yet - Throughout All Of His Life:
 - Jesus Is The One:
 - Who Came - Not Only:
 - To Keep The Law:
 - That We Could Not Keep!
 - But - He Is Now The One:
 - Who Can Enable Us:
 - To Obey The Will & Word Of God:
 - From Our Hearts:
 - And - Out Of The Principle:
 - Of Love!
 - Because - Truly:
 - As Paul Explains In:
 - Romans 13:10:
 - "Love Is The Fulfilling Of The Law!"
 - 2. So - When You Struggle:

- To “Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother” - As Well As:
 - Any Other Authority:
 - In Your Life:
 - Turn To The Lord Jesus:
 - Who Will Help You And Guide You - As You Seek To:
 - “Do Always Those Things That Please Him!” (John 8:29)
- Because - This Is One Of The Desires:
 - And Marks:
 - Of A Child Of God!

- * Do You Have Trouble Honoring The Authorities In Your Life?
- * Are You Turning To Jesus To Help You?
- * And Remember To - “Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother!”

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