

106 - Honor Your Father and Mother - Ephesians 6:1-3 - 2016-08-21

Call to Worship: Psalm 112:1

Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments.

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 4:9-13

Sermon: "Honor Your Father and Mother" Ephesians 6:1-3

Benediction: Psalm 119:166

LORD, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments.

INTRODUCTION

We have seen in these days that our society in some ways seems to be growing more violent. A number of us have bought guns and ammunition, taken the required class to get the license to carry a handgun, and are now preparing to defend ourselves and our children with deadly weapons physically.

A few lines down in Ephesians from where we are studying right now, we will read about armed defense spiritually against evil spiritual attacks.

- "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"

- "put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"

- "take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

Everyone knows that to use a weapon well, whether sword in ancient times, or firearm in modern times, you need to learn how to use it. You need to understand the principles and be shown how to wield it. Then you need to practice with it, becoming more and more proficient in its use. The same surely is true of using the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.

It occurs to me that in Ephesians 6:1-3 we get a look at a master swordsman using the sword of the Spirit expertly. If we look at those verses in that light, we can get in some good weapons training here, learning to wield that mighty sword ourselves for the spiritual defense of our families.

We see here that in this New Testament letter, one of the Ten Commandments is quoted, and its place in the Ten Commandments is referenced. We can see here how the Lord's apostle understood the Ten Commandments, and how *he* used them. That provides us a guide to how we should understand the Ten Commandments and how we should use them.

TEXT

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise: (3) "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."

commandment [G1785 *entole*]

BODY

- I. We see here that the Ten Commandments are not the part of the Old Testament law that is now abolished
 - A. There are many sayings in the New Testament scriptures, especially in the writings of Paul, that people wrongly understand as meaning that the Ten Commandments are no longer in force, and so Christians and the church should not preach, teach, and obey them
 1. you are not under law
 - a) Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
 - b) Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
 2. love is the fulfillment of the law
 - a) Romans 13:8-10 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. (9) For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (10) Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 3. the law is not made for a righteous person
 - a) 1 Timothy 1:8-9 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, (9) knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person,
 - B. I will not try correctly to expound all of those verses just now. But I quote them to point out that whatever Paul meant by them, he did not mean that the church is no longer to preach, teach, and obey the Ten Commandments, because He himself did so right here in Ephesians 6:1-3
 1. So go study and learn what those phrases DO mean, but don't take them to mean that the Ten Commandments are no longer to be taught and obeyed

2. APPLICATION: Note how taking a verse “in context” means not only in the immediate context, with the verses just before and after it, but also in the broader context.
- C. There is a theory that any authority any of the Ten Commandments have for the Christian comes from them being re-iterated in the New Testament scriptures.
 1. see in Paul’s use of the Ten Commandments here that is not what is happening
 2. he is not, in quoting this commandment, instilling it with authority
 3. he is, instead, in quoting this commandment, appealing to its authority
 - D. We see here an example of just what our Savior said in the Sermon on the Mount, that the Ten Commandments are to be taught in the time of the New Covenant
 1. Matthew 5:17-19 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. (18) For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. (19) Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but **whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**
 2. In Ephesians 6:2-3, Paul quotes the Ten Commandments.
 - a) so, did Paul think that Jesus Christ came to destroy the law? no
 - b) did Paul teach the commandments? yes
 - c) is Paul called great in the kingdom of heaven? yes
- II. We see here that we Christians are to teach the Ten Commandments to our children
- A. I will not say much about this here, because in a subsequent verse parents are commandment to train their children, and I intend to speak about this in that place.
 - B. There might be an idea in your mind that children should not be told the righteous requirements of the law, but just told “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.”
 - C. But see here that our Lord’s apostle, in saying one thing specifically to children, quotes and applies the Ten Commandments.
- III. We see here that we are to use the Ten Commandments to know and demonstrate what is right
- A. in today’s society, as also in other places at other times, many people insist
 1. there is no such thing as right and wrong
 2. or what is right and wrong is so because agreed on by society
 3. basically, the only thing recognized as wrong is to tell someone else he is wrong
 - B. Whatever crazy moral code the society adopts, we see here that Christ’s church knows what is right and shows what is right by referencing the Ten Commandments

1. Is it right for pregnant mothers to have an abortion? No. "Thou shalt not kill"
2. Is it right for people to live together if they are not husband and wife? No. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
3. Is it right for people to do whatever they please on the Lord's Day? No. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."
4. Is it right for people who won't work to vote themselves money from the people who do work? No. "Thou shalt not steal."
5. Is it right to expect and train children to obey their parents and other people in authority over them? Yes. "Honor thy father and mother."

IV. We see here how we are to teach the Ten Commandments

A. With the marvelous gospel of Jesus Christ attached

1. Paul has gone on and on in praise of God for how He has saved us from our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord
2. Then he started telling us to obey God's commandments
3. Just as Jehovah did at Mt. Sinai
 - a) Exodus 19:4-5 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. (5) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.
 - b) Exodus 20:1-2 And God spoke all these words, saying: (2) "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

B. Applied to the particular situation

1. the commandment is "Honor your father and mother"
2. the application to children is "Obey your parents"
3. the application to servants is, "Servants, obey your masters"
4. the application to wives is, "Reverence your husband"
5. the application to citizens is, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities . . . Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due . . . honor to whom honor is due."
6. the application to Christians in the church is, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls"

C. With their promises

1. there is a wonderful general promise attached to the second commandment, that God shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments
2. to the commandment, "Honor your father and mother" God has attached a promise specific to that commandment

V. APPLICATIONS

- A. APPLICATION: There are many people who want to be teachers of the law, but don't know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. Many

who have set themselves up as teachers have turned whole households upside down by teaching what they ought not teach. Either they teach that not just the Ten Commandments, but all the Old Covenant law must be obeyed by Christians. Or they teach that not any of the Old Covenant laws, including the Ten Commandments are to be obeyed by Christians.

1. Take care that you do not become such a teacher. Not many should presume to be teachers.
 2. Take care that you do not fall under the spell of such a teacher.
- B. APPLICATION: Your flesh loves the commandments of men and hates the commandments of God. Be very wary. Read, learn, meditate on, teach to your children the Ten Commandments. Resist the imposition of the commandments of men, even if they were the commandments of God, but expired with the Old Covenant. (In fact, those are the real threat!)
- C. Hold firmly to the truth that we cannot be justified in God's sight by any obedience of ours to the law. The Lord Jesus both obeyed in our place and took the punishment of our disobedience in our place. All our justification in God's sight is through His law keep, not through ours, and comes to us by faith, not by works.
- D. While holding firmly to justification by grace alone through faith along in Christ alone, understand that those justified now love to know and obey God's law. We love to learn to obey all things whatsoever Christ has commanded us.
- E. Whenever you encounter God's law, let your response to it
1. NOT be to think you are to keep it to be saved
 2. NOT to be to think you are keeping it
 3. but to see how it shows you to be a lawbreaker, in need of salvation in Jesus Christ

CONCLUSION

1 John 5:1-5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. (2) This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. (3) This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, (4) for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

We see here how we are to teach the Ten Commandments

in the assembly of the church
as a unit

We see here that the Ten Commandments are the authority to which we refer to know and prove what is right

EXCURSUS: THE FALSE DOCTRINE THAT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

This Use of the Ten Commandments Here in the New Testament Letters Refutes Every False Doctrine Teaching That We Are Not To Obey the Ten Commandments

There are numerous false doctrines that take a line of scripture out of context and make it teach that the New Testament church and the individual Christian is not to teach and obey the Ten Commandments.

False Doctrine: The fact that we are “not under the law” means that we should not teach and obey the Ten Commandments, that we are not obligated to obey them.

-Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for **you are not under law** but under grace.

-Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law**.

This false doctrine is refuted by Paul quoting the Ten Commandments here in Ephesians 6:2-3

False Doctrine: The fact that “the law is fulfilled in one word, even this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ means that we should not teach and obey the Ten Commandments, that we are not obligated to obey them.

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

This false doctrine is refuted by Paul quoting the Ten Commandments here in Ephesians 6:2-3

False Doctrine: The fact that “he who loves has fulfilled the law” means that we should not teach and obey the Ten Commandments, that we are not obligated to obey them.

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

False Doctrine: The fact that all the commandments about not harming other people can be summed up in one, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” means that we should not teach and obey the Ten Commandments, that we are not obligated to obey them.

Romans 13:9-10 For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (10) Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

False Doctrine: the fact that “the law is not made for a righteous person” means that we should not teach and obey the Ten Commandments, that we are not obligated to obey them.

1 Timothy 1:8-9 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, (9) knowing this: that **the law is not made for a righteous person,**

This false doctrine is refuted by Paul quoting the Ten Commandments here in Ephesians 6:2-3

END OF EXCURSUS

False Doctrines Teaching That We Are to Obey the Ten Commandments and the Whole Old Testament Law

True Doctrine Regarding the Use of the Ten Commandments

1 John 5:1-5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. (2) This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. (3) This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, (4) for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

honor your father and mother

Ferguson:

The apostle (passing by all other reasons to prove the equity of the former injunction) doth pitch upon one, to wit, the law of God enjoining this duty in the fifth command.

Hence learn, whatever god hath commanded in his word, is most righteous, equitable, and just: for he proveth that it is right for children to obey their parents, because the law of God enjoineth, "Honor thy father and mother."

Though the law of ceremonies given by Moses doth not oblige Christians, (Christ, the substance of those shadows, being come, Colossians 2:17), nor yet the judicial law, which was given to the Jewish commonwealth, and to stand and fall with it, Numbers 36:6-7; yet the moral law, or the law of the ten commandments, as being never yet repealed by god, doth stand in force, and is binding unto Christians: for Paul doth urge this duty of obedience unto parents upon children, because the moral law enjoineth it

JFB:

This verse proves the law in the Old Testament is not abolished.

Borgman

see Micah 7

Micah 7:1-6 Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, Like those who glean vintage grapes; There is no cluster to eat Of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires. (2) The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in

wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net. (3) That they may successfully do evil with both hands-- The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together. (4) The best of them is like a brier; The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; The day of your watchman and your punishment comes; Now shall be their perplexity. (5) Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom. (6) For son dishonors father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

Paul saw the Law as relevant and authoritative

JRY:

See how the 10 commandments are used

- in the church
- for children
- for gentiles
- as a unit
- as a commandment's place in the unit is important
- as if they are known to the congregation and the children
- as showing that obedience to them is good for a person
- with reference to the land replaced by more general

We who are the redeemed by God's grace, as explained in the first half of this letter, with joy turn to the law of the God who saved us!

Any time you hear the Law of God quoted to you, it should have the effect of turning your mind to Christ Jesus!

This verse is a tremendous help in interpreting the bible.

- see the use of one of the commandments
- see the reference to the ten commandments as a unit
- see the adaptation of the promise to life outside Israel
- "this is right" = the 10 commandments say it

which is the first commandment with promise

Bayne:

that which is first in place, and of principal use and reckoning, may have the first respect, it is the key to all the other: for if this be kept, all is well; if not, why then every one will be soon broken.

Proverbs 1:8-9; 3:1-2; 4:10-13

Proverbs 1:8-9 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; (9) For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

Proverbs 4:10-13 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. (11) I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. (12) When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. (13) Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.

Proverbs 6:20-23 My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. (21) Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. (22) When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you. (23) For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,

Calvin:

Obedience is the evidence of that honor which children owe to their parents, and is therefore more earnestly enforced.

Spurgeon:

There is the child's duty, but there is the parent's duty, too.

Vincent:

habits of obedience normally lead to a happy, long life (which is undermined by socialist kind of government)

children, this is the best way for you to engage in evangelism

Dykstra:

see Romans 13:8-10

BB Warfield

the 10 C stand in Paul's mind as the summary of the fundamental principles of essential morality, and are, as such, of eternal validity

the promise has changed in the New Covenant

the commandment has changed to reflect the change from old to new covenant

the land was not given to Israel unconditionally Deu 28:58-64 Jer 7:1-15

the land was not permanently holy, but made such by the special presence of God;

when the special presence of God left the temple and Jerusalem, the land was not

longer holy, and ripe for judgment Ez 10-11

the promise is still in effect, but it has changed

under the new covenant there is no specific holy land John 4:21-23
general, but not absolute, promise; life lived in obedience to parents will generally, but not always, result in a long life
ultimately fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth
note that it is both father and mother
“It’s a wonderful thing to come from the north to the south.”

Henry:

Whereas the promise in the commandment has reference to the land of Canaan, the apostle hereby shows that this and other promises which we have in the Old Testament relating to the land of Canaan are to be understood more generally. That you may not think that the Jews only, to whom God gave the land of Canaan, were bound by the fifth commandment, he here gives it a further sense, That it may be well with thee, etc.

Slate:

he applies it to us spiritually
he changes the application
in obeying your parents there is protection

Lush:

Paul changes the 5th commandment.
As with the Sabbath commandment, there can be a change to the particulars of a commandment without the whole thing falling to the ground.

JRY:

This verse is helpful in defining what is “right”

- that there is such a thing
- what the source of it is

This verse is a tremendous help in interpreting the bible.

- see the use of one of the commandments
- see the reference to the ten commandments as a unit
- see the adaptation of the promise to life outside Israel
- “this is right” = the 10 commandments say it

If you are in the care of someone other than your parents, that is God’s providence.

See that “parents” equals “mother and father.”

The fact that you don’t obey your parents points you to your need of a savior.

You are tempted to obey other people

- your peers
- the movie makers
- the people a few years older than you

God is in control

do not provoke your children to wrath

Griswold:

cruel, violent discipline
unstable discipline
overprotection
favoritism
bitter, cruel words

nurture and admonition

Griswold:

education must be in the hands of Christians

- F. Right here in Ephesians is a statement by Paul that Jesus Christ, in His death, abolished the law
1. Ephesians 2:13-19 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, (15) **having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law [G3551 *nomos*] of commandments [G1785 *entole*] contained in ordinances [G1378 *dogma*]**, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, (16) and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (17) And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. (18) For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. (19) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
 2. When we read Paul writing that, we could think he means that all of God's law, all of God's commandments given in the Old Testament, were abolished in the death of our Savior on the cross.

3. But here we are assured that Paul does not mean that all of God's law, all of God's commandments given in the Old Testament, were abolished in the death of our Savior on the cross, but only those commandments that were mere ordinances separating the Jews from all the other nations.