

Ten Commandments (Part 38)
(The Fifth Commandment – Part 9)

*“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged
in the land which the LORD your God gives you.” (Exodus 20:12)*

Civil Authority (Romans 13:1-7)

I. The state is a divinely ordained institution (vs. 1, 2).

-2 Sam. 12:8; Jer. 27:5, 6; Dan. 2:21

II. The state is a minister of justice (vs. 3, 4).

-1 Pet. 2:13, 14, 17

III. The state is the franchise of public conscience (vs. 5-7)

Qualification

-Acts 5:29

-Recapitulation: If an authority doesn't exercise its power appropriately, it doesn't necessarily cease to be an authority.

-Clarification: The focus of concern here is the state, not other spheres of authority.

-Observation: Views of authority in America have changed significantly over the last seventy-five years.

LCF 21 (Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience) Par. 2: *“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from human doctrines and commandments that are in any way contrary to His Word or not contained in it. So, believing such doctrines, or obeying such commands out of conscience, is a betrayal of true liberty of conscience. Requiring implicit faith or absolute blind obedience destroys liberty of conscience and reason as well.”*

WCF 20:2: *“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to His Word; or beside it, if matters of faith or worship. So that to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.”*

→What does your submission to God-appointed human authority say about your submission to God?