

The Fifth Commandment

Read: Exodus 20:12

Main idea: The fifth commandment is the hinge between the two tablets because the way we respond to human authority is a direct influence on and result of the way we submit to God's authority.

Key Verses: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (20:12 ESV)

Key Principles:

- Your relationship with your parents has a profound impact on how you view and submit to God.
- The home is the atmosphere where we learn about human authority and how to submit to it and live under it.
- The family is the fundamental unit of society and if it is healthy and intact, then the community will be healthy and operate appropriately.
- Submitting to authority means as long as the earthly authority does not require us to do something illegal, unethical or immoral, then we do our best to honor the request.
- The greatest honor you can give your parents or any other human authority is to obey God.
- Honoring your parents also means that you understand that there is a cycle to life with responsibilities to one another from one stage to another.
- In Jesus we gain the trust to submit to God, our parents and all earthly authorities.

Discussion:

1. How has the environment in which you were raised affected your perspective towards God's authority? What about human authority?
2. Why do you think that people with an absentee father, mother or both parents struggle with submitting to God? How does that affect human relationships?
3. Why do you think our society struggles with submitting to authority? How has the advent of social media affected our perspective of authority? Is that good or bad?
4. Read 1 John 3:1. How does it affect the way you view authority when you realize that the identity and approval you've been searching for wasn't your parents, but was really your heavenly Father?
5. How can parents help their children to learn and feel the love that God has for them? What do kids need to hear from their parents? What do they need to see?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would remember that we were created for God even in our relationships.
- Pray:
 - That we would honor our parents with respect and love in all the stages of life.
 - That we would submit to human authority as a testimony of our submission to God.
 - That we would live for God in every area of our life even when it runs contrary to society.

V: The Sanctity of Human Authority

Exodus 20:12

Exodus 20:12 - *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*

I. What is honor?

1. Show respect to another. 1 Thessalonians 5:12
2. Defer to another. Matthew 26:39
3. Submit to another's authority. Titus 3:1

II. What sins are prohibited?

1. Don't rebel against authority. Romans 13:2
2. Don't mock authority. 2 Chronicles 36:15-16

III. What duties are required?

1. Pray for authority. 1 Timothy 2:1-2
2. Honor authority. Ephesians 6:1-3
3. Submit to authority. 1 Peter 2:13-14
4. Imitate Godly authority. Hebrews 13:7;
Ephesians 6:4

NEXT WEEK:

VI: The Sanctity of Human Life

Exodus 20:13