

Pentecost Day – The Ten Commandments – Part 3

Exodus 20

*12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which **the LORD thy God** giveth thee.*

This Fifth Commandment is often separated by ‘scholars’ to be part of the civil law but, as was noted in the beginning of this chapter, the structure of the whole divides them into 5 and 5, which is befitting because 5 is the number of ‘grace’ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/960>] in Biblical Numerics. This Commandment thus has the same ‘the LORD thy God’ statement in it that the first four commandments do. God gives His Sacred Name (anytime the LORD is in capitals is used in the KJV, it should have been translated as His Sacred Name, YHVH) to point out that this commandment also is ecclesiastical. In other words, the command to honor one’s parents is directly linked to our Heavenly Father (it’s not civil, relating to other people). Why is that? Because parents are delegated by God to be ‘in His stead’, meaning *they are delegated to raise God’s children for Him*. Thus, parents are also delegated to raise their children in “the way” they should go. As Prov 22:6 says: *Train up a child in **the way** he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* What is “the way” parents are supposed to raise their children in?

*5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know **the way**?*

*6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

John 14:5-7

Parents are charged by God Himself to raise their children *according to Biblical principles*. This is why we’ve already seen God charge Israel to teach their children the reason for keeping the Passover and the reason for redeeming the firstborn son (Ex 13:8-10, 14-16). But God also had Moses charge Israel several other times to teach their children His Laws. Deut 4:9-10 and 11:18-21 are two such places but in chapter 6 of Deuteronomy, Moses lays out the charge quite well...

1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Deut 6:1-9

The institution of the family is the foundation for government because the morals of the children are laid in their hearts from the days of their youth. Thus, parents are delegated by God to teach and enforce His righteous Laws in their family. In fact, the family and the government are both delegated by God Himself with enforcing His Laws. The fact that governments and parents can be corrupted *does not negate the responsibility of children or citizens to have respect and honor for these institutions*. In other words, just because your government is corrupt does not mean that government in itself is bad. It's not bad, it's just the people who are bad. But we should respect the institution of the government. Same goes for the family. Just because parents are unable to raise their children with perfection, does not mean we are not to respect the fact that they are our parents, charged by God to take care of us when we are unable to take care of ourselves. God delegated them the 'office' (job, responsibility) of raising you and *He will hold them responsible for how they did with that job*. It's like they say in the military, you 'salute the rank not the man'. We are to honor our parents despite how good or bad a job they did. Again, parents are delegated to raise their children 'in God's stead'. This means that *parents are like God to their children*. And when the kids are young, they truly look up to their parents as though they were God Himself. Parents should be aware of this enormous responsibility. What does the word 'honor' mean?

“**Honor**” (as it's spelled in the KJV) is #3513, a primitive root that means: *to be heavy*, i.e. in a bad sense (*burdensome, severe, dull*) or in a good sense (**numerous, rich, honorable; causatively, to make weighty** (in the same two senses).

To honor someone or something means to give them respect and recognition. This we should do to our parents, for as Paul pointed out in his letter to the Ephesians...

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Eph 6:1-3

Obedying your parents is the right thing to do and we are promised a long life in the flesh if we do this. Even Jesus Himself submitted to his parents (Lk 2:51). Though Jesus' true Father was God Himself (which is why the Temple was where He thought they should have found Him), He still submitted to His mother and adopted father and went back 'home' with them. And, as Paul

pointed out, this is the first commandment with a promise. Therefore, obeying our parents brings a promise with it. Let's look at it again...

*Honour thy father and thy mother: **that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.***

Ex 20:12

Deuteronomy is a second witness to this and gives a bit more insight into the promise...

*Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; **that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.***

Deut 5:16

So, honoring our earthly mother and father (which includes *obedience*) will prolong our flesh life and make life 'go well' for us. Why? Because parents are supposed to teach their children God's Laws and this very much includes disciplining them so they learn the value of self-disciplining one's carnal nature. If this is instilled into children at a young age then they will have a much easier time in life because they won't be controlled by their carnal mind, which is at enmity with God (Rom 8:7, James 4:4). And when we obey our carnal mind (nature) we sin against God and our conscience bothers us, creating an internal conflict that many don't know how to handle; that's why so many people turn to drugs, alcohol or other forms of 'escapes' (such as work, entertainment or fantasies) to deal with the pain in their heart. When parents teach their children God's Laws they give their children the advantage in life by helping them be able to deal with the emotions and spiritual temptations life in the flesh brings.

Furthermore, children simply don't have the mental capacity to make good decisions and they thus rely on adults for direction to teach them the difference between right and wrong. If they are not taught good morals when they are raised, they will have many problems in their adult life. And, since God has delegated parents to teach His Laws to their children, He also commands children to obey, respect and honor their parents because their parents are the delegated guardian for them while in the flesh life. Again, it's similar to the institution of government. Judges are charged by God to judge by His laws and not to let themselves be bribed, threatened or coerced into perverting justice (Ex 23:6-7, Lev 19:15, Deut 1:17, 16:19-20, 24:17). Likewise, parents are to do the best they can to be right and fair when raising their children. They should treat them according to God's Laws and teach them God's Laws in every aspect of their lives. This is why God says to diligently teach His Laws to their children. He used the figure of speech: *and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up* to explain how they (and only they) have the ability to teach their children how to live rightly by God's Laws through their very actions and words. **Kids learn by example** so *parents are supposed to be a good example for their children!* In everything they do, parents should teach their kids to obey God's Word, the best they can. This includes chastisement. As the Proverbs says...

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.
Prov 13:24

Moses also said this...

5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.
6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.
Deut 8:5-6

Paul picked up on this as well...

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:
6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
*11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless **afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.***
Heb 12:5-11

As Paul explains, chastisement (be it from our parents, government or God Himself) yields (brings forth) the *peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby*. This is critical to our spiritual salvation. However, chastisement is something kids (and adults alike) naturally don't like, but the fact that the command to honor our parents is built into the first five of the Ten Commandments tells us that, if we honor our earthly parents, then we honor God Himself. And enduring chastisement from our earthly parents is good for us; it gives children the foundation for self-discipline, which is the only way we can overcome our carnal nature. This doesn't mean you beat your kid up but chastening verbally and with a good spanking on the butt (the naturally padded place for chastisement) is good to do *when they are old enough* to not be hurt by it and *young enough* to have an impact on them. By the time kids are old enough to discern right from wrong (10-12 years old), they are past the need for physical chastisement and you'd better have done a good enough job at it to help them begin to learn how to self-discipline themselves. This is essential for their spiritual development and really, for their eternal salvation.

Of course, many people question this Fifth Commandment simply because there are so many terrible parents out there. But God didn't add amendment to this command that said 'unless your parents are bad'. Nope, He didn't say that at all. He said to honor our parent's *period* and the New Testament tells us obedience is part of honoring them. You see, while earthly parents are not perfect, our Heavenly Father is. And *learning to respect earthly parents is so paramount to a child's development that it is very hard for children to learn to respect their Heavenly Father (God Almighty) if they don't first learn to obey their earthly parents*. It's like Jesus told Nicodemus, who wanted to understand what being 'born again' meant: *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?* (John 3:12). If we cannot understand how to honor (and obey) our earthly parents (who we can actually see), how can we understand how (or why) to obey our Heavenly Father who we cannot see? It's a critical part of a child's development to learn to respect their parents and authority in general. Otherwise, the seed of rebellion is sewn in their heart and it will be very hard for them to get it out. And rebellion to God is likened to witchcraft in 1 Sam 15:23. That's because, ***if you don't honor God Almighty (YHVH) then you will allow your carnal mind to lead you astray***. Your carnal mind will control you and you'll thus be controlled by emotions, lust, pride, etc. – all the things that will destroy you will be what controls you. Without being able to discipline our carnal mind (nature) into obeying God's Laws, we're on a path to self-destruction. This is why it's so important to chastise children and teach them to respect and obey our Heavenly Father, by first teaching them to respect the parents that they can see: their earthly parents.

So, what if you had horrible parents? It's true, there are (sadly) many *terrible* parents. Some parents not only beat and molest their kids but some actually teach their children to do drugs, steal and kill (all things that go against God's commandments). And it's only getting worse as the morals of each generation slip further and further away from God's Word. But those who come to find Christ in their adult years will recognize the value in honoring their parents despite the sins they committed against their children in their younger years. And it comes simply from respecting the 'office', even if your parents themselves are horrible. Always remember: *your parents still chose life over abortion*. They are many children who don't even make it out of the womb nowadays. Moreover, an important part of healing for our soul is learning to forgive those who have sinned against us. And likely there is no one alive who thinks their parents did a perfect job of raising them. So, even if you were molested or abused while growing up, there is great peace that comes from truly forgiving them for their sins against you. Jesus Christ taught us the importance of forgiving...

*14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*
Matt 6:14-15

This means we cannot be released from the guilt of our own sins (in our conscience, 1 Cor 15:55-56, Heb 9:9-14) if we don't forgive others, even our parents who treated us horribly. And if you have trouble letting go of the things your parents did to you, pray (*and keep praying*) for help to let it go. If you are sincerely seeking to clean your own sins out of your heart (Mth 7:1-5),

the Holy Spirit will help you let go (forgive) of all sin's others (including your parents) have done to you. Forgiveness is a beautiful thing because *it heals our soul*. However, this doesn't necessarily mean you will want to (or need to) have a relationship with your parents if they are still living contrary to God's Laws. Once a child hits adulthood they are responsible for themselves. Therefore, while they should still honor their parents, they no longer need to obey them (we should always obey God though). It is wise to consider their advice (Prov 8:33) but when we become adults, we become responsible to God Himself and parents should not try to control their adult children.

The point of raising children isn't so you can make your own little kingdom (with your children as your subjects) and try to govern all your kids by controlling what they do in life. It is to raise children up, according to God's Laws, so they can be good citizens in this life, *and the life to come*. It's to help them overcome the carnal mind (sin) and find the only true path to salvation: Jesus Christ. Furthermore, God told us once two people get married, they are bound to each other, not to their parents. Gen 2:24 explicitly tells us that: *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*. It applies to a woman to: once she gets married, she is bound to obey and love her husband over her parents and parents shouldn't try to get in the way.

It's also important to note that raising kids is not an easy job and no parent is able to do it perfectly. Only our Heavenly Father is perfect, so this is another reason to forgive, even if you don't forget (don't allow them to continue to hurt you). We truly need the peace that comes into our heart from the Holy Spirit upon forgiving others and repenting for our own sins. This is the only way we can overcome our carnal nature: to be at peace with God gives us the strength to overcome (put off) our carnal mind (nature) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017>].

We also must recognize that, in our adult life, we are responsible to God first and foremost and He expect us to love and obey Him above all others in our life...

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26-27

The word '**hate**' in verse 26 is a mistranslation. While it does mean to 'detest', it also means to '**love less**' (#3404), which is how it should have been translated. Jesus said we must love our family (and even our own life) *less than Him* if we want to be His disciple. This is why we must deny our 'self' (the selfish and sinful desires of the carnal mind, Rom 6-8) and bear our cross by crucifying that old man (the carnal mind) each and every day (Lk 9:23). But we also mustn't let anyone (even family) draw us away from obeying God *from the heart*. This teaching from Jesus stems from the Old Testament law in Deuteronomy...

6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth;

8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him;

9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.

10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.

Deut 13:6-11

In Israel of old, it was a capital offense to draw someone away from the one true God, YHVH. But, because the laws of our governments don't allow for this law to be kept in the physical realm, so we must learn to obey this law *from our heart* (which is what God wanted all along) and that's why Jesus taught us we must obey Him first and foremost in our life. So, while we are to honor our parents, we cannot let them (or anyone else) draw us away from our Heavenly Father. And this did and does happen. And it will continue to happen for family is often used to bring corruption into society. (This is why Jesus said He came to bring Mth 10:34-40). All too many people accept sins, such as homosexuality (an abomination to God), because a beloved family does them. The best thing for someone bluntly rebelling against God (such as a homosexual) would be for the entire family to disassociate from them (as they might actually want to turn from their sin then). But usually, the family caves to political correctness and emotions and eventually accept the homosexual (or whatever sin it is) even if they don't 'agree' on their 'lifestyle'.

But God, and Jesus, have clearly stated this isn't acceptable to Him. WE cannot value relationships with people (even family) over our relationship with God. Thus, *we cannot allow anyone to turn our heart away from God's Word and the standards of right and wrong within it.* So, once children grow up, they are accountable to God Himself. Parents must learn to allow their children to make their own decisions and reap the rewards for those decisions, be it good or bad. We cannot try to 'parent' our children when they are adults. Giving guidance and a bit of help is great but too much is detrimental *to them*. Try to raise them to where they can be self sufficient at 18 years old instead of still needing you. If you have a good relationship with your Heavenly Father you won't *want* to be needed by your children all the time or vice versa. Love is a beautiful thing but only if it's truly love as defined by God's Law...

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Rom 13:10

Thus, God's Laws of how we should treat each other, even for family, should be abided by what God's Word tells us that is. And honoring our parents (regardless of how old we are) is one of those commands. To reiterate, this doesn't mean we have to obey them after we are an adult but that we should honor them. Don't belittle them, speak badly about them or treat them with disrespect or contempt. Treat your parents (and your children) according to God's Law...

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
Gal 5:14

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.
James 2:8-9

One last note on this commandment: parents should recognize (and remember) that God has charged you to raise your children according to His Laws (not according to *your* laws) and you'll be responsible to Him for the kind of job you did. And likely, you'll reap your rewards (for the good or the bad) even before you die. What most parents don't think about when raising their kids is what life will be like for them when they get old. Parents who mistreat their children (which includes not teaching them God's Laws and/or chastising them) will likely not be treated well by their kids when they get old. It's easy to think we'll be young and live forever and that, since our kids are young, we can do whatever we want to with them but, *we all get old with time* and more than likely you'll need care in your old age. There is no one who will care more for you than your children IF you raise them well. So, remember this when you have the 'upper hand' of being the adult and they are young and relying on you for guidance and provision. One day those tables will be turned and you'll be relying on your children for help instead of them relying on you. Do you want to be destitute in your old age or left to the cold-hearted 'government' to care for you?

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
Gal 6:7-9

We will pick up with this in Part 4...

AMEN.