



Thinking Like a Christian 25th October 2020

Fifth Commandment: Honour your Father and Mother

1. The World the right way up

Remember the two Tables of the law:

Other	Honour
Make	Murder
Take	Commit
Remember	Steal
	Bear
	Covet

The first table is how to love God; the second, how to love our neighbour.

The definition of 'justice' / 'righteousness'

2. The commandment and the promise

Very simple: *honour* your father and your mother.

Who is 'you' in Exodus 20:12?

Look at Deuteronomy 5:16. It's the same! Except...

Look up Deuteronomy 1:2-3. Remember 'Horeb' is another name for Sinai. So who is Moses speaking to this time?

So: who is 'you' in the promise 'that your days may be long'? And what does that have to do with the commandment?

3. Family: central to the image of God

Remember Genesis 1:27-28

We are images of the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit

God alone is 'I am'. The rest of us take our being from another; ultimately from God, but immediately from our parents.

Legitimate authority

The duty to show honour

To parents

To all legitimate authorities

The first duty of those who submit to God is to submit to those God has placed over us. Our parents most of all.

4. The ruin of family

Families have been in a mess since the fall. There are no happy families in the Bible.

The destruction of family a particular, and deliberate, focus of western secularism.

Marriage, family, and submission to parents are considered *oppression*.

Every society has distorted and dysfunctional families. Ours is perhaps the first to have made the destruction of families its particular aim.

5. The faithful son and the family of God

John 1:12-14; 5:18-19; 6:37-38	What is Jesus' relationship with God?
	What relationship with God does Jesus offer us?
Acts 2:38-39	What is the place of family in Jesus' church?
Ephesians 6:1-4	How should Christian children relate to their parents?

Jesus is all about the restoration of the human *race* – by creating a new *family*, a new race. The whole of the gospel is about this

God's covenant – a promise to you and your children.

Within God's covenant people, God-given authority is a blessing!

Different spheres of authority...

6. So let's honour our Father and Mother

How important would most of your non-Christian friends think that honouring your father and mother is?

Does 'honour' mean 'obey'? Are there some circumstances when it might not? Are we more likely to submit to our parents too much, or too little?

Would you ask your parents' opinion about what you should study? What job you should do? Who you should marry? Why or why not?

Does it make a difference whether your parents are Christians or not? If so, what sort of difference?

Are there any circumstances in which we *shouldn't* obey our parents?

Should we obey the speed limit? Why, or why not?

Should we obey laws we don't agree with? When should we not?