

May 6, 2020

Commandment #5

With the fifth commandment, we transition from the commandments dealing with our relationship to God, to the commandments dealing with our relationship to one another. The first of these later six commandments begins in the home, for it is here that we learn the lessons of obedience and submission to authority, which ultimately determine our ability to get along with one another and function in society.

The fifth commandment is found in **Exodus 20:12** and **Deuteronomy 5:16**. It deals with the matter of respect and obedience toward parental authority. It is also found in **Ephesians 6:1-3**. Take time to read all three passages before continuing. Then notice with me three truths concerning this commandment.

1. It is a Command. This may seem obvious, yet how often do children, or young people, seek to justify themselves in the face of disobedience to their parents? It is easy to reason why we don't have to obey, but to do so is to fall prey to Satan's lies and deceptions. It may be easy to justify, but it is never right. Disobedience is always sin.
2. It is a Forever Command. At no point in scripture, does God ever lift this command. Sometimes people believe that when they become an adult, they no longer have to listen to their parents. While our relationship with our parents changes as we mature and move out on our own, we never outgrow our responsibility to honor them. In our lesson material, the author says, "This commandment has a time limitation. The day comes to most people when father and mother die." While I understand what the author is saying, I strongly disagree. I believe we have a responsibility to honor our parents, even after they have passed. Paul makes it clear, that when we are living at home, under our parent's roof, we honor them through our obedience, but there are many ways in which we show honor and respect. What are some ways that an adult child can still show honor and respect to their parents? How can they show disrespect?
3. It is a Command with a Promise. God promises blessing and long life to those who honor and obey their parents. Why do you think God would attach a promise to this commandment? God instituted the home and He has ordained the order in the home. Read **Ephesians 5:21-33**. Consider how many verses are given for instruction to parents and how they are to work together in comparison to how many verses are directed toward children. Why does God deal with husbands and wives before addressing the children?

The matter of obedience in the home is very important. Unfortunately, we are living in a day when many parents are at a loss for how to discipline when it comes to teaching respect and obedience. In II Timothy 3, Paul addresses the last days, giving us a description of these perilous times. How does verse 2 relate to the fifth commandment? Take time today to let your parents know how much you appreciate them and remember that Mother's Day and Father's Day are just around the corner.