

### **Sunday School Notes (5<sup>th</sup> Commandment): Honor your father and your mother**

*"Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you" Ex 20:12*

#### **Goals of this lesson**

- Who is meant by Father and Mother?
- What does it mean to Honor?
- Sins of inferiors/superiors
- What does it mean to honor God
- Practical applications (if we have time)

#### **Who is meant by "father" and "mother"?**

*WLC Question 125: Why are superiors styled father and mother?*

*Answer: Superiors are styled father and mother, both to teach them in all duties toward their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents.*

*"Father is taken several ways; the Political, Ancient, Spiritual, Economical, Natural. – Watson*

#### **Political**

- **Encourager/enforcer of good**
  - o *Romans 13:3-4 "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for **your** good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer."*
- **Punisher of wickedness**
  - o *"For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer"*

#### **Ancient Father**

- *Leviticus 19:32 - "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man and you shall fear your God: I am The LORD".*
- *"'Tis a blessed sight to see the springs of grace in the autumn of old age, — to see men stooping towards the grave, yet going up the hill of God, — to see them lose their colour; yet keep their savior." - Watson, T.*

#### **Spiritual Father**

- Lead in truth
- Encourage our hearts in Christ
- Praying for our souls

*1 Cor 4:15 "For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel"*

#### **Respect**

- *1 Thess 5:12 "We ask you brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in The Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work".*

## **Doers of The Word**

- *James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”.*

## **Advocate for them**

- *1 Tim 5:19 “Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidences of two or three witnesses”.*
- *“Do the ministers open their mouths to God for you in prayer, and will not you open your mouths in their behalf? Surely, if they labour to preserve you from hell, you should preserve them from slander; if they labour to save your souls, you ought to save their credit” – Watson*

## **Economical Father**

- *1 Cor 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”.*
- *Ephesians 6:5-8 “Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to The Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from The Lord, whether he is a bondservant or free.*

## **Natural Father**

- Father and mother according to the flesh
  - o Provision
  - o Protection
  - o Lead us in the truth of the Gospel

## **What does it mean to honor Father and Mother?**

- *WLC Q. 127 asks, “What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors”*
- *A. The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due **reverence in heart, word, and behavior**; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defence and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.*
- **Reverence in heart**
- **In word**
  - o *“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her” Proverbs 31:28*
- **In Behaviour**
  - o *Col 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases The Lord”*
  - o *“Luke 2:52., he was subject to His parents. He to whom angels were subject, yet was subject to his parents” – Watson*

## **A Promise?**

- Deut 5:16 *“Honor your father and your mother; as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*
- *What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it?*
  - o *A: The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, in these words that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, is an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God’s glory and their own good, to all such as keep this commandment*

### **Sins of Inferiors**

- *“What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors”? – WLC Q. 128*
  - o *A: The sins of inferiors against their superiors are, all neglect of the duties required toward them; envying at, contempt of, and rebellion against, their persons and places, in their lawful counsels, commands, corrections; cursing, mocking, and all such refractory and scandalous carriage, as proves a shame and dishonour to them and their government”.*

#### ***We hold them in contempt***

- *1 Sam 8:7 “And the LORD said unto Samuel, hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them*

#### ***We act in rebellion toward them***

- *2 Sam 15:1-12*

#### ***We reject their lawful and godly corrections***

- *Deut 21:18-21*

### **Sins of Superiors**

- *What are the sins of superiors?*
  - o *A: The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, and inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counselling, encouraging, to favouring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; to any way dishonouring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behaviour.*
- *Ezekiel 34:2-4*
- *Eph 6:4*

### **Honouring God**

- ***Obedience***
  - o *John 8:48 - “Jesus answered, I do not have a demon, but I honor my father, and you dishonour me”.*
  - o *Christ is dishonored when he is disobeyed and accused of falsehood*
- ***Aligning ourselves with His Cause***

- o *Matt 10:32 - “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”*
- o *2 Tim 2:12-13 “if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.”*
- ***Our mouths should be full of His praise***
  - o *Psalm 92:1–4 “It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy”.*
  - o *Psalm 135:1–4 “Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession”.*
  - o Our help (Psalm 121)
  - o Our keeper (Psalm 121)
  - o Our good (Psalm 16)
  - o Our salvation (Psalm 13)
  - o Our shield (Psalm 3)
  - o Our peace (Ephesians 2)
- We know that Paul understood this well
  - o *Romans 11:36 “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen”*
  - o *1 Tim 1:17 “To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen”*
- ***Looking to Christ***
  - o *John 20:31 “but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name”.*
    - Is there anything more insulting to the honor of God than to look upon His Son and the gift of salvation and scoff at it?
  - o *Hebrews 2:3 “how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation”?*
- Let us too, honour our heavenly Father by looking to Christ, in every season, always being conformed to His image and striving to know Him more.