

Dear friends,

The last few weeks we have been looking at the Ten Commandments and trying to understand how they are relevant to us today. This week we will be looking at the fourth commandment in Exodus.

Exodus 20:12

¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

For most of us here, our parents have passed, and so this commandment might seem hard to put into practice. That said, there are probably many people we may choose to honor and thank God for putting in our lives.

I have to ask a question: what does an honorable life look like? Many people live a good life. They are honest, kind and upstanding. Where would society be without them? We as followers of Jesus are called to live more than a good life. We are to live an honorable life! This is where the Ten Commandments come in. When we honor God by following His commandments, we become the next generation of honorable people.

Our world without Jesus feels void, empty with no hope. True love is misunderstood for lust, and meaningful relationships seem unattainable. We struggle for peace and security in a world that is tossed about like waves of the ocean. As we stand on the beach watching the waves come to rest on the sand, we also see those same waves being called back to where they came from.

Humans are much like the waves of the ocean, in constant motion and looking for that place to rest. In Ecclesiastes 3 we see why there is such a struggle in our hearts.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. ¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will revere Him.

Those who do not know Jesus do not revere God, but we who know Him revere God by honoring Him with our lives. By this life example, others will desire to know our Heavenly Father. We are to constantly be a light to others. Loving others and placing their needs above ours shows a servant's heart. Jesus showed us how to love unconditionally and honorably.

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The fourth commandment tells us to honor our parents. If they are gone, we are able to do this in memory of them as we become an example of what an honorable person is. We do not want glory or praise or power for ourselves, that belongs to our Heavenly Father. My prayer is simply this, that we may bring peace and hope to many around us so that they too might "live long in the land." A life worth living.

Your Brother in Christ,

Archie