

COMMANDMENT V

The first four commandments are concerned with our relationship with God, and includes the object of our worship (Jehovah), the ordinance of worship, the manner of worship (being reverent), and the time of worship (daily, and setting aside one day to be particularly dedicated to Him.

The fifth commandment begins to be concerned with our relationship with others.

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” (NIV)

There are four aspects of honor that I would like for us to notice. Honor means to:

- 1.) Prize highly
- 2.) Care for
- 3.) Show respect for
- 4.) Obey

The fifth commandment is ‘the first commandment with a promise’ (Ephesians 6:2). Isn’t it interesting that God chose to give the greatest honor for a home, in that He sent His own Son into a family/home. God instituted marriage/family before church or government. Perhaps this should cause us to pause and consider the place which God has for families/parents/children. Parents are the first authority figure that children know.

To honor our parents means to obey (as noted in one of the aspects of honor noted above). However, obedience should be the outgrowth of love rather than the outgrowth of fear. When we look closely at the fifth commandment, we note that there is responsibility of parents as well as children. Parents should be examples of Christian life and conduct----not just at church or out in the community, but at home. We should live and practice what we ‘preach’.

Respect to godly parents is part of our love for God. Does this mean that as earthly parents we will never make mistakes? The answer to that question would be a ‘resounding NO’. However, we need to recognize our responsibility.

No matter which ‘side of the age group’ that we are, we need to show respect for each other. After all, if your ‘label’ is parent, or if your ‘label’ is child, all of us are the children of God when we accept His Son as our Saviour.

“Lord, may I remember to honor earthly fathers and mothers----but may I also be mindful that I need to honor and obey my heavenly Father. Amen.”