



If you love me, keep my commandments – Jesus
John 14:15

SESSION 8: *The* FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

*We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents or other authorities,
But honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.*

1 WHAT MAKES PARENTS UNIQUE FROM ALL OTHER PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES?

2 NOTICE HOW LUTHER ADDS “OTHER AUTHORITIES” TO THIS COMMANDMENT. Is he adding to what God commanded? Is this biblical? Does God really expect us to “honor and obey, love and cherish” all other authorities in our lives?

Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9

Romans 13:1-7

Hebrews 13:7 & 17

1 Peter 5:5-6

3 THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT IS ABOUT “HONORING” PARENTS. But does *honor* always mean *obey*?

4 DOES THIS COMMANDMENT APPLY ABSOLUTELY TO EVERY SITUATION? What if our parents or other authorities poorly carry out their vocations from God? What if one’s parents are abusive?

Colossians 3:18-25

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

5 **CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE:** (*Deuteronomy 21:18-21*) – *If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. They shall say to the elders, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard.” Then all the men of his town are to stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.* Why would God’s OT Law prescribe such harsh punishment for dishonoring one’s parents?

† John Calvin once said: *Those who would blatantly disrespect, dishonor and disobey their parents are monsters and not men.* Do you agree or disagree?

6 **READ EXODUS 20:19.** What promise does God give with this commandment? How does it apply today?