THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

A LIFE OF HONOR • A FAMILY OF BLESSING • A SOCIETY THAT THRIVES

THE COMMAND

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." — Exodus 20:12

"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." — Deuteronomy 5:16

THE BIG PICTURE

- The 10 Commandments form God's blueprint for a good life and a thriving society.
- God places the family at the center of this framework.
- Honoring father and mother leads to long life and well-being.
- The blessed life begins in the home, where we first learn to relate to others and to God.
- If we cannot honor those we can see, how will we honor God whom we cannot see?

WHAT IT MEANS

1. WHO IS "FATHER AND MOTHER"?

- Includes more than just biological parents.
- Represents all authority figures (parents, teachers, employers, governors, etc.).
- Paul links this command to the call to honor servants and masters (Eph. 6; Col. 3).
- A microcosm of the larger calling to honor all who are in authority.

2. WHAT DOES "HONOR" MEAN?

- Give due respect and necessary service.
- For children: obey in the Lord (not in all things, but in what honors God).
- Not blind obedience, nor constant rebellion.
- The Bible's vision is neither of the extremes, but a balanced, God-centered approach.

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

JESUS SUBMITTED TO AUTHORITY

- Obeyed His parents (Luke 2:51–52).
- Submitted to the Father's will (Luke 22:42).
- Endured unjust authority (1 Pet. 2:21–24; 3:18).

JESUS HELD AUTHORITY ACCOUNTABLE

- Cleansed the temple (Mark 11:15–19).
- Rebuked religious leaders (Matt. 23).

OTHER BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- David honored Saul.
- Daniel and friends disobeyed unjust commands (Dan. 3; 6).
- The apostles, including Stephen, stood firm (Acts 4–7).

The way we relate to earthly authority reflects how we relate to God's authority.

WHY OBEY?

1 BECAUSE GOD SAYS SO.

"As the Lord your God commanded you." (Deut. 5:16)

2 BECAUSE GOD IS THE SOVEREIGN LORD.

- He grants authority (Dan. 2:21; Rom. 13:1).
- He is Lord over all lords (Ps. 103:19).
- There is not one "maverick molecule" in the universe (R.C. Sproul).
- *"There is not a square inch… over which Christ does not cry: 'Mine!'"* (A. Kuyper).

3 BECAUSE OF THE PROMISE.

- *"So that you may live long..."* (Ex. 20:12).
- *"That it may go well with you..."* (Deut. 5:16).
- Leads to the good life for individuals and society (Eph. 6:1–3).

THE MOTIVATION

1. GOD'S COMMAND	2. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY	3. THE PROMISE
We obey because it is God's will.	He gives authority to others and is over all.	Obedience brings a blessed life and a thriving society.

HOW WE OBEY TODAY

IN EVERY SPHERE OF LIFE

- **Children & Parents** – obey, respect, care, and honor.
- **Teachers & Students** – learn and teach with respect.
- **Employees & Employers** – work and lead with integrity.
- **Citizens & Civil Authorities** – obey, pray, hold accountable, vote responsibly.
- **For those in authority** – lead justly, fairly, and humbly.

KEY WARNINGS

- Don't let culture define honor—follow the Bible.
- **Avoid the extremes:** blind obedience or constant rebellion.
- Dishonoring authority dishonors God and leads to broken families, societies, and ultimately, our relationship with Him.
- Even when we must disobey earthly authority, we do so within God's authority and with reverence for Him.

A CALL TO ACTION

- Honor your parents and all authority figures.
- Teach others to honor authority.
- Support leaders who protect families and uphold righteousness.
- Stand against media and culture that encourage dishonor and rebellion.
- Pray for those in authority.

THE RESULT

- ✓ Longer, fuller lives.
- ✓ Stronger families.
- ✓ Thriving schools and workplaces.
- ✓ Healthy communities and nations.
- ✓ A right relationship with God.

Honor leads to the good life— for us and for the world.

HONOR TODAY • BUILD TOMORROW • GLORIFY GOD