

Loving Christ in All of Life  
Week 14 - Honor in the Home and Society  
Exodus 20:12, Leviticus 19:32

- Important to remember - the 10 Commandments were originally given in a civil context
  - All the commands have civil and social applications and ramifications, including the 5th
- 5th Commandment carries specific civic blessing
  - The home is the training ground for order and honor in every other sphere of life
  - The family is a real institution with real authority from God, central to His design
    - Children are to be instructed at the earliest age to obey parents and respect legitimate authority as coming from God
    - Requires strong family ties into adulthood
    - Establishes the family as its own society under patriarchal (fatherly) headship
- Honor for legitimate authority extends from the home into civic life
  - God's law requires general respect and deference to our elders (Lev. 19:32)
  - Civic obligation to safeguard and transmit cultural tradition, respect wisdom of the past (Prov. 1:8, 22:26, cf Hos. 5:10)
    - When this is absent, the result is a revolutionary culture
    - The default should be to accept received tradition and wisdom (not thoughtlessly); to break from it should be the exception
    - Genuine progress and growth come from building on cultural inheritance, not tearing it down to build something new
- Rejection of this commandment reveals disdain for life
  - Parents are God's instrument for giving life - honoring them is honoring the ultimate giver of life; hating and dishonoring them is to embrace death
  - Love for God will lead to respect for His creational design
    - Ex. 23:19b, Lev. 22:27-28, Deut. 22:6-7 - command respect for God's means of creating life and the natural bond that exists between parent and child
      - Deut. 22:7 repeats the exact promise of the 5th commandment - application of the same principle
  - Disregard of the 5th commandment reveals an ultimate hatred of the source of life - that's why longevity is specifically attached to it as a blessing