

## Honor Your Father and Mother

### Observations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Command from Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying:

<sup>2</sup> "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth;

<sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,

<sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

<sup>7</sup> "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

<sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

<sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

<sup>10</sup> but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates.

<sup>11</sup> For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> "You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's."

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PASSAGE

These commands are from God (& reflect God's nature)

#### ***First 4 commands are about our relationship to GOD***

1. You shall have no other gods before Me
2. You shall not make a carved image (to be a god)
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD...in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy (weekly time of rest & reflection to maintain relationship with God)

#### ***Last 6 commands are about our relationship to PEOPLE***

5. Honor your father and your mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
10. You shall not covet...

***Order of commands*** appears to list most important first

- "God" commands listed first
- Order within God commands group: God Himself, then God's image, then God's name

Two commands are positive (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>) – the rest are negative ("you shall not...")

#### SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS FROM 20:12 (5<sup>TH</sup> COMMAND)

##### ***Order & Grouping of the 5<sup>th</sup> Command:***

- It is **listed first** in the second group (people group)
- Our relationship to our parents is the first and most fundamental human relationship (and it provides the realm upon which all other relationships build)
- It is **listed before** the command not to murder and the command not to commit adultery, which seems to place it as even a higher duty (or greater crime) than both of those (and the remainder of the commands as well).
- The first three people commands are all **capital offenses** (they are punishable by death)

##### ***The 5<sup>th</sup> Command Contains a Promise:***

- The promise is **unique** – the 5th command is the only command of the 10 with a promise
- The promise is **conditional** – contingent upon honoring
- The command is **specific** – It requires us to honor both father and mother, not just one or the other.
- The promise is **positive** – offers a reward or incentive, rather than a punishment (though the opposite is implied)
- The promise is **temporal** – relates to this life, rather than the next – more direct payoff than eternal rewards (encouragement to do right now...)
- The promise involves quantity of life (long life) and according to Deut 5:16 (which is quoted in Eph 6:2-3) it involves quality of life (good life) as well:

*Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, **that your days may be long**, and **that it may be well with you** in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*