



Friday, June 3, 2022 ▫ Read Exodus 20:12

Questions from the Scripture text: What one-word command begins v12? Whom does it command to honor? That what may be long? Where? Who was giving it to them? What was His covenant relation to them?

What are we to do with authority and why? Exodus 20:12 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the Lord starts us out with the best of authorities, so that we will learn to honor authorities as part of His means of bringing us into the blessings that He has promised us.

There is no authority except that it comes from God (cf. Rom 13:1). Sometimes, this is harder to see than others, so the Lord has designed to give us a good start in honoring and obeying authority. The first authorities He gives us to deal with are father and mother. Those from whose flesh we have come, and who by natural affection would sacrifice themselves for us. Sadly, there are those parents who lack natural affection for their children and thus do violence to this commandment. And there are parents who lack wisdom to see the needfulness of the authority over their children and thus deprive them of the designed benefits.

Just as with the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 10th commandments, the 5th focuses especially upon the heart. The Lord Jesus would plainly teach that all of God's law was to be obeyed first and foremost from the heart. Indeed, all of Scripture teaches that. And here it is important to see that this is much more than a commandment to obey. It is a commandment to honor. To treat father and mother as weighty. Worthy of respect. It's the word that is even most commonly used to convey the idea of "glory."

When parents and children fulfill their God-given roles, they enjoy a provision that helps turn our hearts to the Lord from the youngest age. And when the church and society are full of such life-long-trained appreciators of authority, then those who come into other seats of authority do so with fatherly affection and service unto those entrusted to their care.

When sin is resisted so that abuse of authority is restrained and the heeding of this good authority is maintained with respect and affection, the result in the state or church is the benefit of all.

The LORD had given them to have Him as their covenant God.

The LORD was giving them the land to which they were coming.

And the LORD had given them authority structure, beginning in the household, beginning from birth, by which to prosper them in that land

Resisting authority and abusing authority were two core components of the curse upon fallen humanity (cf. Gen 3:16). Now the Lord assures His people that part of His gracious covenant with them was that as they depended upon Him to conform their hearts to His law, He would bless the keeping of that law unto their good in home, church, and state. If we hope to see His blessing upon us, we must recognize that resistance to authority is ingrained in the fleshliness of the old man, and watch against it by fostering not only obedience but grace-sustained honor.

What authorities do you have the most difficulty honoring? What would honoring them more look like? What authority roles, if any, do you have? In them, how are you aiming at the good of those under you?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for taking us to Yourself as Your very own people, and for promising to give us every good thing along with You. Forgive us when we forget that You are behind every authority. Many of them are evil, but they are not a terror to us, since You rule and overrule them for our good. Help us to honor them as lesser authorities under You, so that all our obedience comes from obeying You, and all our disobedience to them also comes from obeying You. So, give us grace to maintain humble spirits, wisdom to discern, and integrity to live consistently, in Jesus's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP118D "Now Open Wide the Gates" or TPH153 "O Day of Rest and Gladness"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus chapter 20 verse 12. These are God's words. Honor your father and your mother that your days, maybe long upon the land, which you always your God is giving you.

So far the reading of God's inspired in an errant word.

In the fourth commandment, the Lord set himself over against all the creation. He reminded us that the Lord's day. The Sabbath is the day of is the Sabbath of Yahweh. Our God that it's consecrated and holy unto him. And so we may have sons and daughters and male servants and female servants and cattle and foreigners who have come to sojourn with us because we are the people of God and they're finding refuge with him.

We may be fruitful and multiplying, and filling all the earth and taking Dominion over the creatures and doing the earth. And yet all of those things, our gifts from God and duties assigned by God. And We are made for him himself that it's him. Is he who is our purpose?

Is he, who is our pleasure. And so he reminds us now of four more things that we have ordinarily. Father, mother days land that the Lord has assigned to us the Father and the mother that we have that the Lord has assigned to us the number of the days that we have that, the Lord has assigned to us.

The place that we live as the Apostle, Paul tells the Athenians and acts chapters 17. He is the one who has appointed to each of us, our boundaries and our times and he tells us all of this in the context of teaching us not just to obey, but to honor authority.

And the reason is because everything that we have, we have from God, they're going to be lots of authorities in our life. There are authorities in his church. There are authorities in the society and yet he gives us a starting starter set of authorities a father and a mother.

The first two individuals that we know the ones from whom we came and the specific ones which he picked for us. The sinful nature says, well, I wish I had. So. And so as a mom where I wish I had so-and-so as a dad, this itself is already wicked because God has picked your father and your mother.

He's the one who picked those for you. They're all going to be imperfect. There are many who are quite wicked. Indeed, and yet, God is not imperfect or wicked, and although you deserve not just the father and mother that you have but far worse than that, you deserve hell.

He in the context of Exodus 20 in the context of knowing him by faith in Christ from his word. He is our Savior and he has done a done unto us according to his mercy, according to his law, according to what Christ deserves instead of, according to what we deserve.

And so obeying, your father and mothers submitting to your father and mother comes from responding rightly to God, it has given us these circumstances in which to turn to him to trust in him to serve him and even praise God to enjoy him. Sometimes the imperfections of your parents are used by the Spirit, even to increase your enjoyment of God because he has not like your parents and in those things, in which he graciously upholds, your parents to do.

Well, then this increases your enjoyment of God because those things in which he upholds your parents to do, well are things in which he does not just do well, but does perfectly and they become unto you a picture of what he is like and even more than that, it is a great pleasure.

Enjoy to be to sew often here from your lips. The very earnest and sincere. I love you. Daddy. And yet the honor that the Lord has stirred up in your hearts towards me is perfectly and limitlessly especially to be bent upon him. He gives you your parents as a starter set, not just so that you can honor and obey other authorities later in life.

But because there are the first authorities that you have under him, You honor him and honoring your parents Notice that he doesn't just want your actions, your obedience the command in Ephesians 6, children obey. Your parents in the Lord for this is right. As followed by a quote of this commandant obedience is action but honor is the heart.

God wants you to be grateful to him and to treat with respect and weightiness. The parents that he has given you. In fact, this word honor is the word from which we get or the word which is commonly translated glory. It has the literal definition of very, very heavy that you are first and foremost to treat God as infinitely, more dense than anything else.

Infinitely more substantial infinitely, more weighty, he has greater importance than all created things taken together. And now he takes that waiting us that glory that belongs to him and he sets over you from the beginning, from the first moments of your life, he sets over you, your parents and he wants you to treat them as weighty not merely because they're in his image.

Not merely because they are the ones upon whom he has made your survival literally to depend but also because they stand in some respect in his place to you. If you do not treat them as weighty, then you are not treating God as weighty. And so he uses this command to honor your parents not just to obey them.

Not just to function, well with them and learn how to use the right verbal responses make the right facial expressions and there are all those things. Those are all aspects of honoring your parents, but to treat them as weighty from the heart, to take them seriously and have that childlike filial is the old word.

Actually, it's still good current word that filial respect, and honoring of them as a way that you learn to treat him as weighty. And especially when things are not particularly, as pleases you, which will often be the case, your parents are sinners, and this is a finite and fallen world, but most of all your sinners and you will be displeased all the time that you are, not God, but being a right, worshiper.

Being a proper creature is to recognize that you are not God. And one of the great places you get to practice not be in, God is by coming into this world as a child and hovering to honor your parents and not just obeying them. But being glad that they are the parent and that you are the child actually being glad to give up your will in preference to theirs to set apart side.

Your will in order to submit yourself to them. This submission, this honoring this gladness in God's arrangement, over against your arrangement, in which you would have known. Exactly whom to put upon the throne yourself. Of course this is the first practice you get and recognizing God as God. This is one of the reasons why parents can neither set aside their authority or the need to respect and honor them parents cannot treat the house as an egalitarian enterprise.

First of all it doesn't work and second of all it fails to embrace God's design as good and teach the children that we too are submitting to God's design. Even by exercising our authority. So on the one hand, we must maintain our authority in order to encourage God's design.

On the other hand, we must maintain our authority in a way that reflects that. God is our authority. And so parents exercise, their authority, to serve their children to do all things in a way that is, as thoughtful, and kind, and gentle. And wise as possible for you. The gentleness does not mean that we are never demanding of you.

It means that we are lowly and humble even as we make great demands upon you sometimes. But we recognize that our authority comes from God. Not everyone will recognize their authority as coming from God. And God will destroy those who abuse the position of authority and power that they have scripture has words of special condemnation and judgment for those for instance who cause a little one to stumble.

And so parents who think that there somehow really doing well to domineer over their children rather than to demonstrate to their children authority by service, They have millstone around their neck, curses to deal with such parents do.

But for our part, we note that resisting authority and abusing authority are two core components of the curse upon fallen humanity that the wife will resist her husband's authority, and the husband will by his sinfulness by his fallenness. Tend to domineer over her and he uses in Genesis 3:16, the same language as the the struggle between sin and Cain.

A few verses later in chapter 4, your desire will be for your husband but he shall dominate over you. And then a few verses later, God is confronting Cain and says sin is sin's desires for you, but you must rule over. It doesn't mean lovingly. Take care of. It means you must crush it.

So, this breakdown in authority relationships is one of the primary places that the curse is expressed in in our lives. And so healthy authority relationships healthy honoring of authority and submission to authority and healthy exercise of authority in which we do not domineer over one. Another, the way Cain was supposed to dominate and crush and eliminate his sin but in which authority is loving and cherishing.

This is one of the primary places that God demonstrates the turning back of the curse. The reality of his forgiveness, the presence of sanctification and progress in it. And that one day we will completely delight in God's rule and reign over us. Of course, in the day that we do, that the authorities over us won't be sinful either.

Because we will have passed from this life when we come into that perfection. So honor your father and your mother, there's a gracious God who calls himself Yahweh? Your God and verse 12. He's brought you into covenant relationship. There's a gracious. God who's full of reward and blessing, for those who he is redeemed for himself that your days may be long upon the land, which you all wear.

Your God is giving you no longer in the day that you eat of it. You're so surely die but long days and in fact, eternal life and not just a attractive land in Palestine. But and you haven't and you earth. You have such a God, he's the one who's fixed your parents.

For you, Use the one who set your other authorities over you and certainly the authorities themselves are not worthy in themselves of honor, but God is worthy. He is weighty. So, let us treat our authorities. As weighty out of honor, out of respect worship for God's glory, man. Let's pray Our Father in heaven.

We thank you that you are. The one just bland out for us every day. Our lives. You are the one who are with us. You are the one he has secured for us by Christ. Blessing forevermore with you, your goodness and mercy would pursue us. You are the one who desired that which you have secured in your everlasting love and so we pray that you'd make us to remember that you have redeemed us and that the time and the place and the parents that we have have been assigned to us by you, help us O, Lord to trust you and honor you even in honoring our parents even in honoring, the authorities under, which you have placed us for, we ask it in Christ's name, Amen.