

# 2022.06.05 Evening Sermon

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**Exodus 20:12** “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

## ***God's Starter Pack for Responding to His Glory and Goodness***

**Main idea:** 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.

**Introduction:** First table or second table? Proper submission to authority is submission to the Lord, and proper exercise of authority *is submission* to the Lord.

### **1. Glory**

- a. How much do your father and mother weigh? Infinity!
- b. The rebellion of failing to maintain parental authority (and the disastrous consequences for all other societies).
- c. The rebellion of irreverently maintaining parental authority (and the disastrous consequences to eternal souls)
- d. The rebellion of failing to submit to parental authority (an act of cosmic treason—honoring parents is the nursery school in which we get our first lesson in embracing that we are not God)
- e. The rebellion of irreverently submitting to parental authority (honoring parents is the nursery school in which we get our first lesson in embracing that our authorities are not God, either)

### **2. Goodness**

- a. Specifically appointed providence: your father and your mother ... your days. The God Whose glorifying and enjoying are our purpose has given us other, specific duties in His creation and providence (cf. vv8–11)
- b. Covenantally appointed providence: Yahweh your God. This is a general commandment to all men, but the keeping of it is a special stipulation of being set apart as God’s covenant people. We honor Him in them not only as “the” true and living God but as “our” God and Savior.
- c. Generously appointed providence: God is giving them a land. They don’t have it yet, but they have the best part of it already—Himself. He Who has given Himself in Christ will surely together with Him give all things. And obedience is the path by which He brings us into that enjoyment. This is true not only in the usual way that His providence works (cf. Proverbs) in this life, but in an ultimate sense as He gives us the holiness that is necessary for seeing the Lord.

**Conclusion:** Believers are going to spend the rest of eternity responding perfectly to the glory and goodness of God. And ordinarily in His providence, He gives us a “starter pack” in which to make our beginning in doing so: our parents.

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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)**

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Exodus 20 verse 12. These are the words of God. Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land, which Yahweh your God is giving you.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent worked.

So if you follow along in the larger, catechism, through the Ten Commandments and if you ever want a preview of the evening sermon, so long, as we're in excess, 20 or at least in the moral law. And next is 20, you could just read the larger. Catechism question and answer and get an idea of where I should go.

I don't always remember to to cheat. It's not really cheating. It's very good for you and you get into calc and stuff to look at the answer and then figure out how to get there. And it's good for the Lord to have sent us those who have understood and taught his word well before him.

But if you look at the larger catechism, it puts The fifth commandment in the second table of law, which is summarized, love your neighbor as yourself. And indeed, our nearest neighbors from the time of our birth are our Father and mother, should the Lord in his mercy. Give us one or both and it has generally been true.

Ordinarily in his merciful Providence gracious, providence to man, that most children have had both. And those who are missing father or missing father and mother have the wonderful special promise of God that He is Father to the Fatherless and that he comes near in a special and different way to those who lack father on earth.

So, our father and mother are our neighbors. And yet linguistically exegetically in Exodus chapter 20. It's interesting that this covenant phrase, Yahweh your God. If you take the preface with, with commandment number one, does appear in the first four commandments and the fifth commandment. And then not, not again, in the, at least in this summary of the moral law.

So, I am Yahwe your God. You so have no other God to performing commitment one. And then commandment two for I Yahweh, your God, the majella Scott visiting, the iniquity of the father's upon the children of the third and fourth generations of those who hate me ver the third commandment He shall not take the name of Yahweh.

Your God, The fourth commandment the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh. Your God, and we considered last week that this memory of the creation and how his redeeming us has brought us into the knowledge of him and belonging to him as our purpose and pleasure the way that the Sabbath was always to communicate to us.

And then again here, that your days, may be long upon the land, which Yahweh your God is giving you. In fact, there's a flow from the fourth commandment into the fifth commandment Because the Lord has given us specific providence and specific privilege, You have your own particular sons and daughters.

You have work, all your work verse 9. If you have lived and many of God's people have had a male servant or a female servant, or a cat or cattle, livestock. And many of you have been at some point aspiring homesteaders to one extent or another as we take dominion.

And, whatever particular place, the Lord has put us and we often have neighbors or your stranger, who is in your gates. And we thought last week about how they didn't even have gates yet, but Israel was supposed to be a people to whom the rest of the nation's came for salvation.

And yet, we were not made for all of those other things although God, assigns to each of us, his particular providence, as a gift from him. And as a duty unto him, we are made for him And then he comes. And he says that he's given us another specific set of Providence and whether you meet them or not, every one of us has had has had them honor your father and your mother that your days, maybe long upon the land, which Yahweh your God is giving you.

And so there's this connection of the fifth commandment to what proceeds. And it's especially obvious when you translate in the most common use of the word. The first word in verse 12. Honor. It's a word that actually means weighty or heavy, but it's the word that is most often translated glory.

Now, in our anti-authoritarian anti-God's design for the family age, it would be shocking. Indeed to hear someone say glorify your Father and your mother Indeed, what used to be said in our culture in a proper sense, Reverence your father and your mother, It's just been a couple hundred years since that would well less than a couple hundred.

Since that would not have been strange sounding language in our ears. And yet even in most church situations today, I think if, if someone overheard me, you know, a child's dad, or mom told them to do something, and they were indulging themselves, a little willful rebellion. And I said now young man, you reverence your father and most church situations today at least in our culture, right?

I think that would not be heard with favor. Reverencing your father, But there is reverence there, there is glory there. There's waiting us there And the weightiness of a father of your particular. Father, for you comes from the fact that the Living God is the one who selected that particular father for you to be His particular child And so we don't treat with honor.

We don't take weightily. Our specific set of parents for us in and of themselves, but it really is a submission, a reverence unto God, which and God forgive the parents who put their children in this sort of a situation. If the requirements of the parents upon their children are wicked, or if the treatment by the parents of the children, as harmful to their souls, we create a confusion where there's actually supposed to be a consistency and they are to see the in the first place in their lives.

God's authority over them and care for them in their Father and mother that God has chosen for them. In fact, it is a wicked culture indeed that cannot make generalized appeals to what fathers are supposed to be like and what children are supposed to be like, how corrupt is the culture that we live in that?

It takes a lot of extra explanation, Hebrews chapter 12. But when God says, you all had earthly, fathers, who disciplined you for your good. As as they saw fit and the extrapolates from that to a heavenly Father and how many have been without discipline at all and it doesn't occur to them.

That being without discipline means I'm an illegitimate child that I'm not actually loved or what has gone under. The name of discipline has really just been the venting of frustration by

Father and mother, so that that analogy breaks down, what a horrible and wicked cultural situation. We find ourselves in.

But this idea of the fact that we are responding to the wageiness of God is one that belongs in all authority. Structures. Jesus is treating Pilate as weighty, but of course he treats. God himself as Wait here. And Pilate says, don't you understand that I have authority to release you or to execute you.

And Jesus is responses, basically, I understand authority way better than you do. No one has that authority. There is no authority except from God. And and when God tells us when the apostle, by the Spirit tells us and Romans 13 to be subject to governing authorities again, it's because God is at the top of the chain of command.

That the authority that filters down through the civil authority, is an authority that belongs to Jesus. And so, whatever is legitimately done, legitimately required must be obeyed. And the authority itself must be just waiting often by subjects in wicked nations. The authority is treated more weightily by the Christian subject.

Who knows that Christ is at the top of that chain of authority and who prays with dread and horror, for what the wicked magistrate is bringing upon himself by the misuse of that authority. So that when the Christian subject obeys that which is legitimate and right, He is doing it.

Of course with a reverence for Christ and when the when the Christian subject refuses to do that, which is wrong and harmful is doing. So out of reverence for Christ wives also are taught to submit to their husbands and all things as unto whom. As unto the Lord, it's not the worthiness of their earthly husband that calls forth their submission and they're treating their husbands authority as a wavy thing to be respected and taken.

Seriously, It's the authority of the Lord, the husband of the church. The Lord Jesus himself. And so there's this, this training the starter pack of authorities to receive from God and to treat their authority with the weightiness. The honor, the glory that belongs to God. Everyone gets their starter pack, father and mother.

I hate to admit it before you because I would not want any of you to do this but I once had one of those Android app games that they use to try to either, you're going to have to spend enough time getting onto the game at the right time to get enough of the whatever the currency of the game is to advance in the characters, or what they really want you to do, is to give them money, But in those games, you get a starter pack, you know, a couple characters to start out with and that particular game.

I don't know necessarily about others and you gotta starter pack and you've got to figure out how to navigate the game using those initial characters. My dear children, God has given you a starter pack of authorities and they are by His design, supposed to be the best authorities that you will ever have in your life, Your Father, and your mother, because he wants you to respond to His glory, as you respond to the parents that you have.

He wants you to respond to his weightiness. By treating your parents as weighty as honorable as a glorious gift from God And he wanted to respond to His goodness and how you respond to them. And we'll see that when we get to the rest of the verse, you see a one verse text and you're like a hot short sermon and then you realize you could spend the entire sermon dust on the first word, closing prayer, and complete it, the next week.

And so, we'll see that proper submission to authority is submission to the Lord. But since we are also people who are in authority, we'll see that proper exercise of authority. Is also submission to the Lord you if you are in authority and you hope to be an authority, right?

I hope you children. See that marriage is a good thing and having children is a good thing designed by God. And you want some day to be a father and a mother. So I'm gonna instruct you about the father and mother that you hope to be someday and we who are already father or mother will wince with pain as the scripture, corrects us rejoice in the obedience of Jesus, and look to the Holy Spirit for his grace because it's not just proper submission to authority, that has submission to the Lord.

If you're going to be an authority, you need to recognize that the Lord gave you that authority. So you have neither the right to set it aside to disregard it to have one of these crazy egalitarian households in which the children are given the choice of everything, and they're made to feel like they're in charge or on the other hand to use your authority for your own purposes, instead of the Lord's purposes.

So proper exercise of authority is also done in submission to the Lord. So first responding to God's glory and how you treat your father and your mother, you know how much your father and mother away? That is a trick question. I hope you don't actually know in stones or kilograms or whatever you use.

I don't know if it's permanent or not, but to the the Jubilee of the Queen this week they used Imperial measurements. And made my revolutionary. Heart rejoice, but I hope you don't know the actual mass times acceleration of your parents, but in terms of how much weight to give them, it's infinite, isn't it?

You are not to displace. Mom and dad from the rule and leadership of your home. You may reason with them and ask for instructions so that you may understand you may make appeals for that which you think and hope is good, They're not perfect. So they may actually change their minds about something but don't you dare try to manipulate them and control them and make the home, do what you want instead of what mom and dad say, because God has given them his own weight in the home and you should not try to displace them or push them over.

You may find that dad is easy to get with those puppy dog eyes and those tears. Or mom as easy to get with her flattery, You may find that your parents end up being pushovers and you parents are not allowed to be pushover because God is not to be pushed over displaced.

He is weighty is either is a rebellion in failing to maintain parental authority, and it has disastrous consequences for all other societies. If we fail to maintain parental authority in the home, well, out of the fact that God himself is the authority in the home, then we'll have a gallitarianism in our churches and instead of seeking, to be governed the way Christ governs because we trust in him and we want to please Him and our hope is that He will display His saving power in the church.

We will instead have churches that are ruled by politics, a bunch of children, trying to manipulate and push others over to get the decisions to be what they want. And we've seen, haven't we the effects in the state of having a nation in rebellion against all authority and not recognizing that authority comes from God.

That authority is now under Christ, who has all authority in heaven and on earth So failing to maintain our authority when we are supposed to have. It is itself for rebellion and it leads to

the disaster. Disastrous consequences for all other societies And then maintaining our parental authority in an irreverent fashion.

As if the authority is seated in us, instead of the Lord, That takes the honoring of Christ, out of the relationship of the authority. It puts us in a place. That only Jesus belongs. Doesn't it Many of us have recognized that authority in marriage and authority between parents and children as under attack and vanishing in our culture?

And so, there are those who respond by making their mission in the home, to maintain the husband's authority, over the wife and to maintain the parent's authority over the children. But the idea that that authority came from Christ for service. Under Christ for the good of that life for the good of those children.

It's not maintained and communicated is not part of the air that that home breathes. And so what happens is you do get a restoration of authority but not with the reverence of the Fifth commandment, Not with the fact that it is God himself. Who is authority in that home.

The man becomes God. He becomes like a cult leader. Right? There are cults in which the the cult leader becomes the connection to whatever false divinity there is and because they are the ones who are the leaders. You know, when they speak the god speaks and everybody else does everything to serve the cult leader.

And they always, you know, it ends up horrific in terms of what they do with all the rest of the commandments. And so the irreverently maintaining our parental authority, just maintaining an authority that doesn't continually point. Our children to Christ is another form of rebellion. This is why, and it's just an illustration, you don't have to make the application exactly the same way.

This is why a bunch of our discipline conversations in our home starts with who made daddy, your dad. Well might just a bunch, a bunch of them start with who made mommy or mommy. But I'm not in those who who made daddy your daddy God did. And what does God want you to do with Daddy obey, honor, whatever, it is.

And so forth that we realized that the Lord is in charge of these things and you better explain, you better be able to explain it at that point, that it's not just naked authority. That here's what God wants or Christ wants daddy to use this authority for and that's why we're acquiring you to do this and so forth.

Well of course, if it's rebellion to fail to maintain your parental authority, it's rebellion for you children to reject parental authority. There's an act of cosmic treason. God has put you in this nursery school in which you get your first lesson that God is God, and you are not, and your first lesson in God being God.

And you not being God is the fact that mommy is mom and you are not and so you do what she says. And you're not just do what she says. Because if you do what she says irreverently, Then you're still rejecting the fact that God is at the top.

If you do what she says just because you learn that you're you're high knee gets warm. If you don't, then you're not fulfilling the command to honor. Are you? You're just serving having a cool hiney. You are to honor your mom. You're to be glad that she's in charge.

You're to be thankful that your will got crossed and cheerfully do what she wanted, instead of what you wanted. Because God is the one who made her, your mom and he is waiting, and he is good. And that's the, that's the second part here. Honor your father and your mother,

that your days may be long upon the land, which Yahweh your God is giving you, you have been specifically appointed your particular, father, your particular mother, your particular days and your particular blessings, the Lord, giving them a land.

That was a great blessing to them. He's not just saying so that I can you know multiply or increase the duration of your time in a particular geographical location, the promise of the land was tied to God's redemption. Wasn't it all the way back to Abraham promising to give him the land?

And so it's his goodness in keeping all of his provinces. But what's the best? One of God's gifts Was it that they would have a bunch of babies? I mean, he promised that Abraham that he would have descendants like the stars in the sky Was it that they would have a bunch of property that he would give him all of this land that that he was sojourning in.

No. What was the best gift that God promised Abraham? I will be your God and you will be my people. God himself is his best gift And so you have here the blessings, the goodness of God that is promised but the greatest blessing is found in that phrase that we've already pointed gluing back to the first and second and third and fourth commandments.

Yahweh your God. And so you may not have an enjoyable life if you have bad parents but you will have God Himself and you will enjoy Him Even in the midst of the difficulty, even in the midst of the misery, even in the midst of crying out against injustice and sin.

But for the most part, you most of you children don't have that here. So don't get a martyr complex and, and sing only imprecatory Psalms and think about mom and dad, You are abusing the Bible when you think and feel and act that way. And yet, even if that was God's providence to you, and some of you have had hard situations with your parents, hard situations with your parents.

Some of you older ones, have had hard situations that still sting with your parents and yet, God and His goodness is giving himself to you and bringing you through that. So that you may know the perfection of his fatherhood even. Sometimes it's through what he gives us in our parents.

Sometimes it's over against by means of but over against what our parents have been like. And so there's a general commandment to all men to honor authorities but especially for us upon the land, which Yahweh your God is giving you. If we the ones Him, God is bringing to faith.

Are the ones who know the weightiness of God. Then we are really the only ones who know how rightly to submit out of reverence forgot. And so you have a specifically appointed Providence, God has picked your authorities for you. You have a covenantally appointed. Providence is a special, a special blessing that our honoring, our father, and mother is one of the means by which God is bringing us into our blessing, all obedience to God.

For a Christian is, you know, the the the old Puritan phrase was walking along the safe highway of holiness that you may believe. And yet, if you are not making progress and sanctification, if you're not walking in holiness, you all bring upon yourself a great series of miseries and ineffectivenesses and fruitlessness in this life and be saved by the skin of your teeth as you dragged through the bramble bushes and continually assaulted by thieves.

That's the word picture there, But the highway of holiness getting up to the safe path of obedience to God of growth and killing sin, and walking in new obedience. It's designed to be

the means by which the path through which we go to glory. We come to the blessing that Christ has earned for us.

And then, of course, generously appointed Providence. We already got them out of order. If you're following in the outline, God himself is the great gift of Exodus. 20 verse 12. The land is not the great gift. It is a gift. The length of days is not the great gift.

It is a gift. God himself is the gift and then he comes in Ephesians chapter 6 and he's still repeating the promise. Why? Because the land is a new heavens and a new earth. It's not just that tiny little attractive, land and Palestine and the days are ever everlasting days.

Not just if by strength 80 or 120 or whatever the Lord permits men to achieve before we fall on our face and have our life spans shortened again. The the days are the eternal days of the next, the next world in which God himself is our blessing. So We are going to spend the rest of eternity responding perfectly to God's goodness to us and to God's glory An ordinarily.

In his providence he gives us a starter pack in which to make a beginning in responding to his weightiness and that's responding well to your parents'. Weightiness, not just obedience, but cheerful quick submissive meek gentle obedience. Not fuming, but thanking God from your heart, honor, your father and your mother.

They are great blessings. The vast majority of them and they are very good to us. The vast majority of them but it is God's waiting us that you're responding to and it's God's goodness that you're responding to. Oh, dear children. Honor your father and your mother. Let's pray Our Father in heaven.

We pray for those of us who are parents and our aspiring to be parents that you had grant to us to exercise authority under you, that directs all the glory and reverence and submission to you so that our parents would help our children to see that it is Christ.

Who is governing them through mom and dad, help us to communicate that. In a way that shows the sort of authority that Christ has exercised for us. That you are Father have exercised over us and help us O Lord to respond to your waytiness whenever we are under authority.

Lord, you know how difficult it is. For many of us who were not honoring from the heart, as children, and did not see you, as behind our parents, and did not rejoice over your goodness to us in Christ. And that portion that Jesus has earned for us in the can never be taken from us.

And we thank you for the the remedial lessons that you've given us as you brought our hearts into submission along the way so that we might live these lives of knowing your greatness and responding to your goodness. We pray that our children would do better than we did. We pray that you would make them to know for my young age, your own weightiness and all of their relationships and their relationships with their parents especially here that you would make them to know your goodness.

The submission and the cheerfulness the joy that comes from their relationships with their mom and dad would come out of knowing your goodness to them in Christ and forever. Do this for them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen