

The Fifth Commandment

Robert C. Newman



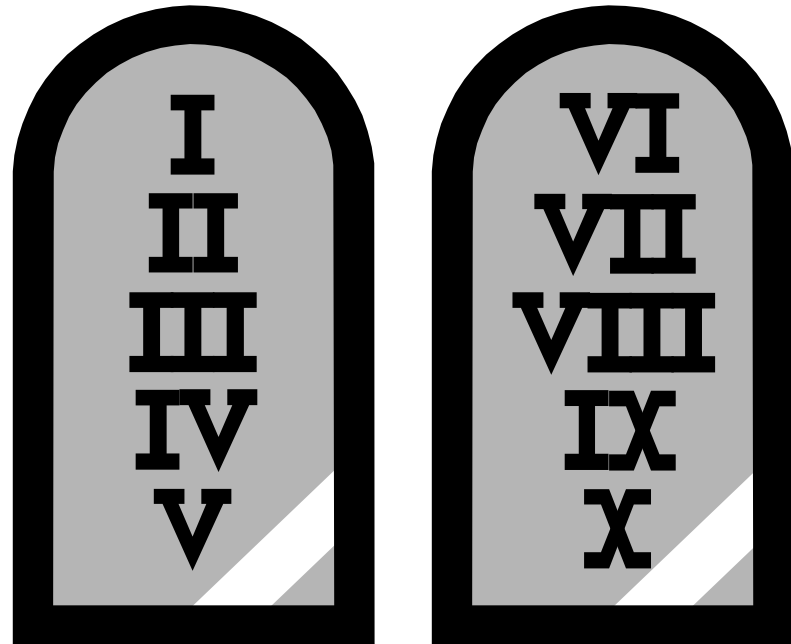
The Fifth Commandment

Exod 20:12 (NIV) Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Deut 5:16 (NIV) Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

The Fifth Commandment

- Its Meaning
- Its Seriousness
- Its Continuation
- Its Limitations



Its Meaning

What does "honor" your parents mean?

- Don't physically abuse them.
- Don't curse them.
- Respect them.
- Listen to their teaching.
- Obey them.
- Help them in old age.

Don't physically abuse them.

Exod 21:15 (NIV) Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death.

Don't curse them.

Exod 21:17 (NIV) Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.

Respect them.

Levi 19:3 (NIV) Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.

Listen to their teaching.

Prov 1:8 (NIV) Listen, my son,
to your father's instruction and
do not forsake your mother's
teaching.

Obey them.

Deut 21:18 (NIV) If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him...

Obey them.

Col 3:20 (NIV) Children,
obey your parents in
everything, for this pleases
the Lord.

Help them in old age.

Prov 23:22 (NIV) Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Help them in old age.

1Tim 5:8 (NIV) If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

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What does "honor" your parents mean?

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Its Seriousness

How does God view this?

- Death penalty for disobedience
- Cursed by God and His people
- Training ground for all respect for authority

Death penalty for disobedience

Exodus 21:15 (NIV) Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death.

Death penalty for disobedience

Exodus 21:17 (NIV) Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.

Death penalty for disobedience

Deut 21:18-21 (NIV) If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, 19 his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. 20 They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard." 21 Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

Cursed by God and His people

Deut 27:16 (NIV) "Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Training ground for all respect for authority

See the discussion in the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongeth to everyone in their several places and relations.

Its Continuation

Is this commandment still in force today?

Yes, see the following:

- Gospels
- Epistles

Gospels

Matthew 19:19 – Jesus quotes this commandment in response to the rich young ruler’s question about getting eternal life.

Epistles

Eph 6:1 (NIV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"— which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." {[3] Deut. 5:16}

Its Limitations

Obey in everything?

- When there is disagreement, we must obey God.
- Relation to Christian service?

When there is disagreement,
we must obey God.

Acts 5:29 (NIV) Peter and
the other apostles replied:
“We must obey God rather
than men!”

When there is disagreement,
we must obey God.

Matt 10:37 (NIV) Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me...

Relation to Christian Service?

- Matthew 15:3-9 – Jesus rebukes Pharisees for their oral tradition that the sanctity of vows cancels the 5th commandment
- 1 Timothy 5:8, 16 – Paul reminds his readers of their responsibility to care for their elderly parents.

Relation to Christian Service?

1Tim 5:8 (NIV) If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Tim 5:16 (NIV) If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

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Its Seriousness

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Its Continuation & Limitations

- This commandment is still in force today.
- It is limited only by our over-riding responsibility to obey God when there is a conflict with human commands.

The End



Honor your father and mother!