

*subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. God is the source of authority for all earthly rulers and He tells us to obey those He has established over us. This submission is not absolute. We must not submit when authorities require us to sin against God. There may also be times when we respectfully refuse to obey rulers who overstep their authority.*

#### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been tempted to dishonor an earthly ruler? How does God's Word instruct us in such times?
- Discuss times in which you or Christians before you have been required to disobey their earthly authorities. How can you prepare for such times when they may come on you?

#### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

*The final realm of authority and submission we want to consider this week is in the Church. God has established His Church and given leaders to shepherd His people. What are our responsibilities toward our leaders in the church? Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Note the command is to obey and submit. This can be difficult for us, especially in modern times when most authority has been downgraded. The church, especially, is seen by many to be more of an optional club than a God-chartered institution. God wants to remind us that He gave the church its leaders and He did it for our good. We each need to be shepherded and to have someone watch over our souls. Interestingly, this is a command for the elders themselves. Even leaders have to submit to the other leaders of the church. We all need to be shepherded. If the responsibility of the sheep is to obey and submit, what is the responsibility of the leaders? Leaders in God's church are not to work for their own name or glory. They are not to seek power, prestige, or money. They are to serve the people of God, taking Jesus as their supreme example. Matthew 20:28 the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

#### Discussion Questions

- What are some of the responsibilities of the elders in the church? Can you think of any limits to their authority?
- What are some times you have struggled to submit to the leaders of your church? How can you grow in your submission?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### **West Oaks Baptist Church**

(in preparation for Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

#### **Baptist Catechism Question #69**

**Q:** What is required in the fifth commandment?

**A:** *The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honour and performing the duties belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.*

#### **Suggested Memory Verse**

***Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.***

### Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week we continue to look at the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment. The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment acts as a transition point between the first four commandments, which are summarized in the greatest commandment to *Love the Lord your God*, and the last six commandments. These latter commandments are summarized in the second greatest commandment, to *Love your neighbor as yourself*. It may seem odd to you that the commandments are all about love. Our modern world typically thinks about love as gushy feelings people have for one another. While feelings are involved in love the Bible teaches us that love is much more about how we act toward one another. Romans 13:8-10 *Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.* God tells us to love our neighbor. How do we do that? We learn how to love by learning God’s law. As Christians we have been saved from sin and by the power of the Holy Spirit we can now begin to keep the law. This means Christians can begin to learn to truly love!

#### Discussion Questions

- If the law teaches us how to love, what does it look like for children to love their parents?
- Who is your neighbor based on the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment?
- What other neighbors do you think the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment might apply to?

### Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Who is my neighbor? This question becomes pertinent as we seek to obey the second greatest commandment to *Love your neighbor as yourself*. The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment teaches us that some of our closest neighbors are our parents. Children are commanded to honor and obey their parents. That is how they are to love them. But does the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment only apply to children. The Bible teaches that the commandment applies to more than just children. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul instructs children to keep the commandment. Immediately afterward he shows that the commandment actually has instructions for parents as well. Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.* Not only are children required to obey the authority God has placed over them (their parents), but parents are also expected to carry out their duties to their children who have been placed in their care. If we are to love those under our authority we have certain responsibilities that must be lived out. Parents, you are to love your children by providing for them, protecting them, teaching them about God, disciplining them, and calling them to the gospel. Your children are some of your closest neighbors!

#### Discussion Questions

- What does it look like for parents to love their children? Are there some forms of love that are less enjoyable than others?
- Parents, tell your children about how you came to know Jesus.

### Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week our question addresses how we are to relate to those who are our *superiors, inferiors, or equals*. Our forefathers in the faith have seen that the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment is not just about parents and children but offers a paradigm for how we should behave in all similar positions. God is teaching us about how we relate when we are subjects or when we are in authority. Have you ever held a job? When you work a job you are usually under the direction of your boss. He has authority and you are to obey him. In the times of the Bible this employee/boss relationship was seen between servants or slaves and their masters. Paul speaks to servants in Ephesians about how they are to relate to their masters. In doing so he is actually fleshing out the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment’s implications in the realm of work. Ephesians 6:5-7 *Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man.* Paul doesn’t stop at the servants. Just like the implications for parents the commandment has implications for bosses as well. Ephesians 6:9 *Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.*

#### Discussion Questions

- How does the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment affect how a Christian works in his job for his boss? If you have a job, how might this change how you work?
- Grumbling in your heart is a common sin in those working under a boss. How might a Christian combat this in his own heart?

### Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment addresses those who are under authority and those who have authority. God has established authority in the home in the form of parents. Children are thus commanded to honor their parents. Besides the home God has established other realms or spheres of authority, including both the state and the church. How ought Christians to behave toward governmental leaders? This is an area addressed in God’s law and related directly to the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment. 1 Peter 2:13-14 *Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.* Peter writes to Christians who are to see themselves as strangers and aliens in the world. While we might be tempted to think our position as citizens of heaven could give us license to ignore earthly rulers Peter tells us to submit to those placed over us. Paul gives additional insight. Romans 13:1 *Let every person be*