

Discussion Questions

When was the last time you said or did something specifically with the intention of honoring your parents?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In Romans chapter 1, Paul begins by talking about those who are unrighteous, who do not trust God and act in their natural ways. Listen to their sins: *They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless (Romans 1:29–31).* It is a terrible list, and disobeying parents is right in the middle! We have a duty to “honor everyone in their several places and relations,” —to actively respect the various authorities God has put in our lives. It is a parent’s joy to see their children obey with a willing and loving heart that honors the parents and even more Christ. *The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice. (Proverbs 23:24–25)* And yet, we so often fail this simple command. But there is a “wise Son” who did what we cannot. Who is all of this really about? Christ. He was obedient to the Father and showed the greatest honor. Jesus kept the law perfectly so that He could die on the cross in the place of sinners. We know God was pleased by this sacrifice because three days later, Jesus rose victorious and now reigns from heaven.

Discussion Questions

- Does it seem right to you that “disobedience to parents” is included in the same list with sins like murder? Why or why not?
- How is Jesus’ obedience to God the Father an important aspect of the gospel?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, February 2nd, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #70

Q: What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A: *The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglect of, or doing any thing against the honour and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Matthew 15:4–6 For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ [5] But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” [6] he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

As a concise summary of the moral law, the ten commandments can be applied in a much broader sense than the specifics listed. “Honor your father and mother” can be expanded to include giving the appropriate honor to *any* rightful authority, not only parents. This includes honor and respect for those above you, equal to you, and those under your authority as well. The authority figure, whoever they are, is somebody that stands in for God as His representative and brings order and direction to the home, school, work, church, and even government. Children, honor your parents - yes! But this command also speaks to employees respecting the boss, students respecting your teachers, church members respecting the elders. Even among our peers or those under our authority, we are to show an appropriate amount of respect. Children, respect your siblings and other kids your age, as well as those younger than you. People come up with all kinds of excuses for rejecting authority. Matthew 15:4-6 says, *For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, ‘What you would have gained from me is given to God,’ he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.* Our God is a God of order, and He delegates authority as a demonstration of His ultimate authority in our world. It is a beautiful thing, and we are to honor it.

Discussion Questions

- Are there some God-given authorities that are easier for you to honor than others?
- Why do you think God has given us authority structures to live by?
- How does honoring earthly authority also give honor to Christ?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

If God loves authority, and commands us to honor it, then what is forbidden? Rebellion. God hates rebellion, whether it is active dishonor or simply neglecting to give the honor due. Listen to what scripture says about those who rebel, neglect, or do anything against their representative authority: *‘Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’* (Deuteronomy 27:16); *A fool despises his father’s instruction...* (Proverbs 15:5); *For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him* (Leviticus 20:9); *The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures* (Proverbs 30:17). Do you get a sense that God is in any way pleased with those who dishonor their parents? Do we really want to be cursed, to be guilty, be put to death or be eaten by vultures? We don’t live in Old Testament times and we are now under the law of Christ, but the sin and its seriousness has not diminished. Consider what happened to rebellious children in Deuteronomy 21:18–21, *“If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother...”* then the parents were to take him to the elders at the gate of the city to be stoned, and to *“purge the evil from your midst.”*

Discussion Questions

- What are some examples of disrespect that you have seen?
- How is disrespect an example of rebellion?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Genesis chapter 9 gives the vivid example of Ham dishonoring his father Noah shortly after the flood. *The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed. Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father’s nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”* We are not given every detail, but from the contrasting behavior of Ham and his brothers we see what it looks like to honor (or dishonor) someone. Notice that Noah was in a compromised position, but sometimes, showing honor means choosing discretion. 1 Peter 4:8, *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*

Discussion Questions

- If your parents or teacher or boss does something foolish, is your first impulse to mock and gossip about them?
- How can you show them honor, even when they may not deserve it?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

By commanding that we honor our parents and other God-given authorities, the fifth commandment forbids that we *dishonor* them. That seems simple enough, but notice in our catechism that it also forbids *neglecting honor*. We are to actively look for ways to show honor where it is due. It is not enough to simply hold our tongue when we think of a disrespectful reply or have enough self-control to resist rolling our eyes. The command is to show honor. Neglecting to show honor is sin. *So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin* (James 4:17). God has given us various authority structures as a gift for his glory and our good, and He has told us to honor them. Romans 13:7 says, *Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.* Staying neutral is not a valid option. Even when we feel like they do not deserve any special honor, we are to honor them as a way of honoring God.