

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"HONORING GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY"

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: February 12, 2023

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 5:16

Family Dinner Table

The Old Man and His Grandson

There was once a very old man, whose eyes had become dim, his ears dull of hearing, his knees trembled, and when he sat at table he could hardly hold the spoon, and spilt the broth upon the tablecloth or let it run out of his mouth. His son and his son's wife were disgusted at this, so the old grandfather at last had to sit in the corner behind the stove, and they gave him his food in an earthenware bowl, and not even enough of it. And he used to look towards the table with his eyes full of tears. Once, too, his trembling hands could not hold the bowl, and it fell to the ground and broke. The young wife scolded him, but he said nothing and only sighed. Then they brought him a wooden bowl for a few half-pence, out of which he had to eat.

They were once sitting thus when the little grandson of four years old began to gather together some bits of wood upon the ground. 'What are you doing there?' asked the father. 'I am making a little trough,' answered the child, 'for father and mother to eat out of when I am big.'

The man and his wife looked at each other for a while, and presently began to cry. Then they took the old grandfather to the table, and henceforth always let him eat with them, and likewise said nothing if he did spill a little of anything.³

- Does the prospect of your children one day treating you the way you treat your parents give you pause?
- Pray that God would reveal to you ways in which you can show honor to others.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

East Lake Expression Engine,
strategic partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Ender, *supported national partner
serves as a pastor in Turkey*

If you recall from our previous studies in Deuteronomy 5, the *Ten Commandments* were delivered to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai after they had been redeemed by God and brought out of slavery. The Law was given to them as a signpost, so *"that it may go well with you and your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time"* (Deut. 4:40). Whereas the first table of the law emphasizes our duty to God, the second table of the law emphasizes love for our neighbor. As we examine the fifth commandment, we learn that loving your neighbor begins at home.

God's Command: Respectfully recognize those with authority.

In America, honoring your parents is counter-cultural. Just scan through the most popular children's TV shows or movies, and you'll notice a glaring theme: parents are incompetent or imbecilic. In an article entitled *How Disney Teaches Contempt for Dads*, BYU researchers noted that after reviewing just eight hours of Disney movies *"every 3.24 minutes, a dad acts like a buffoon."*¹ The fifth commandment specifically calls on us to honor our parents because the family unit is the foundation of human society. If the values of the family are reflected in the society at large, is it any wonder that our culture is in such a sad state?

- The book of Proverbs reinforces the theme of honoring parents. Read Proverbs 1:8, 3:1, 10:1, 20:20; 23:22; and 30:17. How does Solomon describe honoring or dishonoring your parents?
- Read [WCF Shorter Catechism Q&A 64](#). How does the meaning of the command extend beyond parents to living under and living with authority?

Our Crisis: We are rebellious children when given authority and when under authority.

Authority can be abused. What does honoring look like in those situations when those who are in charge of our well-being (whether parents, church leaders, or civil magistrates) misuse their powers? In the Old Testament, the family dynamic between Jonathan and Saul gives us a clearer picture of what respect looks like (1 Samuel 19 & 20). When Jonathan learned of his father's murderous plot to kill David, he warned David at the risk of his own life. But Jonathan was loyal to Saul and never abandoned him. He eventually died fighting beside his father (1 Samuel 31).

- Peter states in Acts 5:29, "We must obey God rather than men." How did Jonathan exemplify this principle? Was it wrong for Jonathan to warn David? Explain.
- When under authority, more often than not, we act like rebellious children and disrespect those God has placed over us. Read [WCF Larger Catechism Q&A 128](#). Describe the ways in which we can and do disrespect those in authority at home, at church, and in our culture.

Our Comfort: We have an older brother, the perfect Son. (Hebrews 2:10-11)

If the "founder of our salvation" subjected himself to earthly authorities, his example leads us to submit as well. As one author puts it, *"God submitted to man. The God-child obeyed his mere human parents. And in doing so, he dignified the most basic, and enduring, of everyday relational dynamics. In our modern age, taught to despise the ideas of submission and obedience...Jesus's obedience to his parents challenges the insecurities in us that often make us averse to submit and obey. God himself in human flesh subjected himself to two average, ordinary, inexperienced parents in an obscure backwater town called Nazareth. Jesus obeyed his parents."*²

- Read 1 Peter 5:6 and James 4:10. What does God promise to those who humble themselves?

¹Riley, Naomi Schaefer. *How Disney Teaches Contempt for Dads*. June 14, 2016. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2016/06/14/how-disney-teaches-contempt-for-dads/> February 7, 2023.

²Mathis, David. *Jesus Obeyed His Parents*. September 20, 2018. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-obeyed-his-parents> February 8, 2023.

³Grimm Fairy Tales. *The Old Man and His Grandson*. Lit2Go. <https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/175/grimms-fairy-tales/3093/the-old-man-and-his-grandson/> February 7, 2023.