

Family First

The Fourth and Fifth Commandments

Lesson 9

The Fourth Commandment

The fourth commandment is HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH

The fourth commandment sometimes seems to youth to be the hardest of all the commandments to keep. Remember that the first three commandments dealt with our relationship to God. These next seven deal with our relationship to our fellow man. It has been suggested that the commandments in each section of the law are given in the order of their importance. This does not mean that we can pick and choose which commandments upon which to concentrate. It does seem to suggest that one commandment might include aspects of behavior that influence one's ability to keep the other commandments. For the first three commandments the reasoning might go something like this. If God is first in your life (first commandment) then you would not want to take His name in vain (second commandment) but you would want to worship Him (third commandment). The converse would be that if God is not first in your life, then you would have little regard for His name and worshipping Him would not be high on your list of priorities.

This line of reasoning for the last seven commandments suggests that the fourth commandment is very "important" indeed. It is the basis for getting along with our fellow humans. It contains within it the concept of giving respect to those in authority and honoring their authority.

Read the following scenarios and decide which would be a violation of the fourth commandment. Check the blank beside the ones you feel are examples of breaking the fourth commandment.

___ 1. Linda had had a hard day at school. She had piles of homework and a splitting headache. She hoped she would be able to go home and do nothing for a few minutes, but as soon as she walked in the door, her mother said, "Linda, I'm so glad to see you. Jeffy has been sick all day, and I haven't even been able to begin dinner. Would you make some spaghetti and heat up some of the French bread and...?" Mother was interrupted by Jeffy's crying. "Just throw something together."

Linda dropped into the nearest chair and tried not to cry. She couldn't decide with whom to be upset. She thought, "It just isn't fair. Why did he have to be sick today? Mom should have been able to get something ready for dinner. I just can't do it. I'm too tired, and I have too much to do. Mom didn't even bother to ask about me. She should have asked about my day!"

Jeffy's whimpering and crying interrupted Linda's thoughts. She could hear that her mother was rocking him and talking soothingly to him. Linda dragged herself out of the chair

and went to the kitchen to begin dinner.

___ 2. Danny heard his father yelling at him to get outside and get busy mowing the lawn or else. Danny looked at the clock. "7:00 am." He sighed deeply. He thought about the evening before. His father had kept him up until after midnight doing inventory at the thrift shop. It was like that most days. Work on this, do that. School work was done during a meal and extracurricular activities were out of the question.

"Danny!" Get out of that bed and get down here now!"

Danny thought, "I've been yelled at all my life. Do this, do that. Other kids my age get to play basketball and go to movies. I get to work. My old man doesn't care about anything but making money."

"Danny! You no good louse! Get up! We've got a lot to do today!"

"Stick it in your ear, old man!" yelled Danny. Then he rolled over and pulled the covers back over his head.

___ 3. "My mom has a brain the size of a pea. She is so stupid. She doesn't know anything. Look at what she put in this lunch! Cold brussels sprouts! Yuck!"

___ 4. "The date of my life-- ruined. I've got to be home in twenty minutes and Andrea, beautiful Andrea, wants to drop in on a party out in the country. What am I going to do?" mused Ken. He knew that his parents would not find "dropping in on a party" a good enough excuse for breaking curfew. And if he called to let them know, Andrea would think he was a baby.

Andrea was looking at Ken as though she didn't understand his silence. He knew he'd have to say something soon. Ken looked down and said softly, "I won't be able to take you over to that party. I've got to be home by eleven." He could hardly find enough courage to look at her. His heart sank as he realized from the look she gave him that she would never go out with him again.

___ 5. Shelly worked feverishly. She was furious. "All I am is a slave! I don't have any rights around here. Whenever I want to do something, there are all of these conditions," thought Shelly as she worked to fold the laundry. "Fold the laundry before you go to Julie's house," Shelly softly mocked her mother's voice. "And Dad's no better," thought Shelly. "If you don't have your room cleaned by 10:00, you're not going shopping for those shoes you keep telling us about." Shelly could hear her father saying that one. "I'll show them!" Shelly sloppily folded her father's knit shirts. Then she started on the towels. Her mom had a special way she wanted the towels folded, but Shelly didn't bother. She hurriedly folded over the pants, not bothering to straighten out the legs and smooth any wrinkles. In general, she did a terrible job. She made sure the clothes on the top of each pile looked perfect so that her mother would not notice the poor work if she came to check before she would let her go to Julie's house. When Shelly had finished, she yelled, "I'm done. I'm going to Julie's."

___ 6. Jason read the paper in stoney silence. "Who do they think they are, anyway?" he thought. "I know. I'll get a petition up. All the kids can get their parents to sign it." Then Jason realized that the parents were responsible, at least in part, for the new city ordinance. He couldn't

believe they had actually passed it, but there it was in bold letters, "City Bans Skateboards on Downtown Sidewalks."

Jason got up and grabbed his skateboard. He thought, "They aren't going to stop me from skateboarding anywhere I please. I'll just head on downtown and see if they mean business."

___ 7. "First-year teachers stick out like a sore thumb," thought Teresa. "First they want to be all buddy, buddy. Then when things get a little out of hand and the principal calls them down on it, they get so mean." Teresa was thinking about the lecture her English teacher had just given the class. She had said that there would be no more talking allowed unless she called upon you. And passing notes was now forbidden. Coming into the classroom noisily was out. And worst of all, she was going to make them sit according to a seating chart. "A seating chart," moaned Teresa. "That's what teachers do in elementary school, not in high school. It's degrading."

"Well," thought Teresa, "I could do what some of the other kids are going to do. I could just keep on talking and giving her a hard time. And I could join the boycott on answering questions about the reading assignments. I could drop my books loudly and pretend it was an accident. Yeah, I could help make Ms. Martin's life pretty miserable." But even as she thought of all of these possibilities, Teresa knew that she would not be able to treat a teacher so disrespectfully.

The fourth commandment forbids us from disrespecting and rebelling against those who are in authority over us. Look up Romans 13:2.

Who bring judgment on themselves? _____

This rebellion and dishonor can take many forms. We will look at some of the possibilities.

Which of the following would be a good definition for the term "honor" as in "honor your parents"?

- A. love your parents
- B. look like your parents
- C. respect your parents

If honor is showing respect, then the opposite of honor would be which of the following? Check all of the ones that apply.

___ 1. despise

- ___ 2. reject
- ___ 3. ridicule
- ___ 4. mock
- ___ 5. disobey

It is obvious that all of the above are ways to dishonor your parents. Luther says that children should not provoke their parents to anger. Think of two ways in which you provoke your parents to anger. Be specific. (For example: Not cleaning your room, playing the stereo too loudly. Do not use these. Think of your own.)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

One of the biggest areas in showing honor is in obeying. God wants you to be an obedient child. In fact, He commands it according to the fourth commandment. God gives parents to children as protectors. They are His chosen representatives. Children are to honor their parents as God's chosen protectors.

Look up Colossians 3:20. What pleases the Lord? _____

Another term that must be considered is "false obedience." This is when you are asked to do something and you do it, but you do it so badly that you are not asked to do it again (or someone else must do it over again). As an example, say that your dad asked you to wash the car. You do it, but your roar through the chore so fast that you miss half of the dirt. Later your father comes along and finds a streaked, half-clean car. He has to do the job over.

Another way of not honoring your parents comes in the form of complaining. No examples should be necessary to demonstrate this.

It is important to note that the fourth commandment applies to all who are in authority over you. List some who are in authority over you.

- A. _____
- B. _____

C. _____

Now that we have seen the many ways we can break this commandment, we will spend time seeing the ways in which we keep this commandment. What are we to do to honor our parents and others in authority? Look up Proverbs 23:22.

What two things are we to do?

1. _____

2. _____

There is more. Read I Timothy 5:4 for another way to respect our parents and grandparents. How do we put our religion into practice?

As stated above, this commandment applies to all who are in authority over us. Read Titus 3:1.

Are we to obey the government? _____

Now read Romans 13:7. Should we pay taxes or revenue? _____

But what happens if those in authority tell us to do things that are clearly against what God tells us is right? Read Acts 5:29.

Whom are we to obey when the rules of man conflict with God? _____

Finally, this commandment is the only one with an attendant promise. Read Ex. 20:12.

What is the promise? _____

Applying what you have learned about the fourth commandment, figure out how you would respond in the following situations. (If you think your response would involve breaking the fourth commandment, try to come up with a second response that would allow you to keep the fourth commandment.)

Mary's parents had made it very clear that they wanted her to be home by 10:30 pm. She

was at a very fun party, but at 10:00 her friends all decided to go cruising. She seemed to be the only one who was hesitating about going, so she concluded that no one else had a deadline for getting home. What would her friends think if she told them she couldn't go because she had a ten-thirty curfew? What would her parents do if she broke the curfew? What would you do?

Tom's history teacher looked shook up. He hurriedly told the class to keep quiet and do the questions at the end of the chapter. Then he left. After a few minutes, when the teacher did not return, the others in the class started to get restless; and Tom could hear them beginning to talk and get rowdy. A paper wad hit him in the head. Glenn leaned over and said, "What's the matter with you, Tom? You don't think old man Jenkins really meant for us to do those questions, do you? Put that away and tell me about the game last night." What would you do?

Karen's parents had promised that they would take her to the ice skating exhibition on Saturday. Some of the biggest names in the amateur ranks would be there. She had looked forward to it for two weeks. But on Saturday morning her older brother called from college to say that he needed his birth certificate brought up immediately. He had to have it by 2:00 in the afternoon if he was going to get to go on the choir tour to Germany. Her parents said they were so sorry, but they had no choice but to drive up to the college. How would you respond to your parents? What would you say?

The Fifth Commandment

The fifth commandment is YOU SHALT NOT KILL.

All people are born sinful and selfish. Babies and toddlers display fits of anger and rage. As children, we learn to control the rages within us. We learn that certain behaviors are wrong. This selfish and sinful nature with which we are born is part of original sin. The only way to be saved from this and all sin is by Christ. In addition to asking Jesus to forgive us, we must also learn to love rather than to destroy or kill.

The fifth commandment prohibits killing. This includes abortion, euthanasia, and suicide.

Abortion is the killing of an infant before it is born. Abortion is a case of a legal law of society violates God's law. Look up Jeremiah 1:5.

When were you set apart? _____

God knows us before we are born. We are not to take the life of the unborn. They are precious in the sight of God.

Euthanasia is the killing of old or very sick people. In the Netherlands this practice is legal. There are plenty of people in our own country who are pushing to legalize euthanasia here. Life is the gift of God. We must not take ending people's lives into our own hands. Read Acts 17:25.

What does God give? _____, _____, and _____

How are we to treat the old and the handicapped and the ill? Read Proverbs 31:8.

Suicide is the taking of one's own life. Again, this is forbidden. It shows a lack of trust in God to take care of us. Read Luke 12:22.

What should we not do? _____

The fifth commandment covers more than murder of another human being. It also includes anything that hurts or harms another person. Which of the following would be examples of breaking the fifth commandment? Put a check by all that show breaking the fifth commandment.

- 1. Killing someone
- 2. Stopping at an accident to render assistance
- 3. Mugging someone
- 4. Hating someone
- 5. Loving your enemy

___ 6. Seeking revenge

What was the first recorded murder? _____

Read 1 John 3:15. What is the same as murder? _____

The fifth commandment requires us to treat others well—to support them.
Read Romans. 12:20

How are we to treat our enemies? _____

Read Ephesians 4:32. In what three ways are we to treat each other?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Finally, read Luke 10:25-37 to find out how God wants us to behave toward others.

How does God want us to treat others? _____