

CONNECT

bella vista baptist church

Sunday, October 19, 2025



FAMILY

commandment five

Exodus 20:8-12; Ephesians 6:1-4

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

The BIG Idea

Family is designed for our good and God's glory.

Introduction

With the Fifth Commandment, there is a transition from commandments related to our obligations to God to commandments related to our obligations to others. However, in the order of the Ten Commandments, our obligations to God are primary with our obligations to others stemming from them. Thus, Jesus' response to the question of the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:34-40 ESV).

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The first commandment related to our obligations to others is about family, namely children honoring father and mother. Why begin with family? Because family preceded every other societal institution and God's design for the family is essential to societal stability and growth. It was true for Israel as they moved toward the Promised Land and it is true for all other societies.

The problem, of course, is sin. Genesis 3 saw rebellion and sin enter the world through Adam. And by Genesis 4, brother was killing brother. While families now live together in a fallen world, we can still experience His peace and joy in family life as we live according to His family design.

Verses for Meditation

Proverbs 23:22

Ephesians 6:1-4

Luke 2:41-51; John 19:23-27

Questions for Reflection

How has this Sunday's consideration of the Fifth Commandment affected how you think about family?

Share among the group what family life was like growing up?

Why does the 5th Commandment assign such weighty significance to parenthood and family? What happens when we devalue family?

What all is included in honoring our parents as a child? What is included in parenting a child?

What all is included in honoring our parents as adults? What unique challenges do we face in our society as we seek to honor and care for parents in their declining years?

How did Jesus demonstrate keeping the 5th commandment as a child (Luke 2:41-51) and as an adult (John 19:23-27)? What challenges do you think He faced and why?

How should the gospel affect the aim of how Christian parents raise their children? How should the gospel affect how Christian parents relate to their lost adult children? (Share thoughts and suggestions for each.)

Are children of dishonorable parents without hope? How can we come alongside people with the gospel in their brokenness?

Whatever your family struggle may have been...

...the Father is ready to welcome you home.

...the Father completely knows you and completely loves you.

...the Father will never abandon you.

Oh How He Loves You and Me

Kurt Kaiser (1975)

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh how He loves you and me.
He gave his life, what more could he give?
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair.
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.