

Catechism Week 5 Feb 27 Fourth Commandment
Honor your father and your mother,
so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

- 1) Who are parents and other authorities?
 - Parents are fathers, mothers and guardians; other authorities are all those whom God has placed over us at home, in government, at school, at the place where we work, and in the church.
- 2) What does God forbid in the Fourth Commandment?
 - God forbids us to despise our parents and other authorities by not respecting them or angering them by our disobedience or by any other kind of sin.
 - Proverbs 23:22 and Romans 13:2
- 3) What does God require of us in the Fourth Commandment?
 - To honor our parents and other authorities by regarding them as God's representatives. He distinguishes father and mother above all other persons on earth, and places them next to himself.
 - Eph 6:2-3
 - Honor? From the *Book of Concord*: For it is a much greater thing to honor than to love. Honor includes not only love but also deference, humility and modesty, directed (so to speak) toward a majesty hidden within them. It requires us not only to address them affectionately and reverently, but above all to show by our actions, both of heart and of body, that we respect them very highly and that next to God we give them the very highest place.
 - Parents are God's representatives, however lowly, poor, feeble, and eccentric they may be, they are their own father and mother, given them by God. They are not to be deprived of their honor because of their ways or failings. Therefore, we are not to think of their persons, whatever they are, but of the will of God who has created and ordained them to be our parents. We are all equal in the sight of God.
- 4) Serve our parents and other authorities by gladly providing what they need or require:
 - 1 Tim. 5:4 and Romans 13:7
 - To obey our parents and other authorities in everything in which God has placed them over us;
 - Col. 3:20---Titus 3:1---Acts 5:29
 - To love and cherish our parents and other authorities as precious gifts of God:
 - Proverbs 23:22
 - To show respect to the aged.
 - Leviticus 19:32
- 5) What promise does God attach to this commandment?
 - That it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth Ephesians 6:3

Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation pgs: 74-76

Prayer: Holy God, you invite us to address you as Father, with the knowledge that you desire only our well-being. We give thanks for parents, family, and those in authority who are examples of faithfulness. Assist us to hold our elders in high regard, respecting their wisdom, courage, and care. In Jesus, who honored you with his life and in his death, we pray. Amen.

Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-30 and 6: 1-4

From Prayer: Based on Luther's Small Catechism Pg 7 Augsburg Fortress