Commandment Five

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Deut 5:16 “Honor your father and mother, as the Lord commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Eph 6:1-4 First Command with a promise...

ECO Essential Tenets

“Give honor toward those set in authority over us and practice mutual submission within the community of the church.”

Commandment Five, is the first commandment that shifts the focus from one’s relationship with God and the things of God to human relationships and life within the community of the earth...particularly family.

Gen 1:27, 28 “So God created Man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God Blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Gen 2:24 “Therefore man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

The commandment reflects upon the created order of God’s design, of marriage between a man and a woman...of the sexual Union of husband and wife being the context for the bearing and raising of children...and children growing and maturing to adulthood and the leaving of home to form a new home and family.

God ordained the family as the first institution and God ordained how it was to operate...in a way that was reflective of our relationship with God. Husbands and wives are to live together in a way that is reflective of the inner life of the Trinity...a relationship of equals...who operate in a relationship of mutual respect and submission...see Eph 5:21.

Children are to operate with parents in a submissive way, trusting their parents to have their best interest at heart...sadly this is not always true...but ideally children would trust their parents and parents would be trustworthy.

Heidelberg Catechism

Question 104 “What does God require in the fifth commandment? That I show honor, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and to all who are set in authority over me; that I submit myself with respectful obedience to all their careful instruction and discipline; and that I also bear patiently their failures, since it is God’s will to govern us by their hand.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 64 “What is required in the fifth commandment? The Fifth Commandment requires the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.”

Question 66 “What is the reason annexed to the Fifth Commandment? The reason annexed to the Fifth Commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God’s glory, and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.”

What is the implied promise in this command?

What does this command mean?

God seeks to establish on earth a society that is reflective of the society of Heaven... “that God’s will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” The Commands are intended to create such a society and are how God has created the universe to be.