

Gospel Project Session 21

Theological Theme: God's law reflects God's intention for human flourishing in society.

In this session we examine the six Commandments that focus on honoring God in our relationships. We will see that God calls us to honor Him by honoring our father and mother, by loving our neighbors as ourselves, and by cultivating a heart of contentment. One of the primary ways we show our love for God is by loving others who are made in His image.

Voices from the Church

"We are not called to the love of *Torah* but to the *Torah* of love."

–Scot McKnight

1. We honor God by _____ our parents (Ex. 20:12).

12 Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

How we relate to our parents provides a foundation for all our relationships, especially our interactions with those in authority. Authority brings order to society, and God's command to honor our father and mother sets a model for how we are to respond to other authorities in life.

How does your relationship with your parents impact how you view God?

Ultimately, only God *deserves* to be the object of honor, but God wants us to give honor to others on His behalf. He displayed for us a perfect example of giving honor in His Son, Jesus Christ, when He, as an incarnate human being, obeyed His parents and submitted to their authority.

But Jesus not only gave us an example of honoring parents; He also fulfilled this Commandment and then died to pay for the sins of dishonor that we have shown over the years. Throughout His life, Jesus exalted His Heavenly Father as He displayed the power of God. And even as He died on the cross, He committed His mother to the care of one of His disciples (John 19:25-27).

If you are a parent, how can you intentionally model for your children what following Jesus looks like?

How does the gospel apply to your regrets, either as a child or as a parent?

2. We honor God by _____ our neighbors (Ex. 20:13-16).

Living in a way that honors God begins in the home, but it extends to other relationships as well. In fact, when Jesus was asked which commandment is the greatest, He summed up the law by calling people to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind and then to love their neighbors as themselves (Matt. 22:36-40). Paul later spoke of the prohibitions against adultery, murder, stealing, and coveting as summed up by the command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Rom. 13:9-10).

13 Do not murder.

14 Do not commit adultery.

15 Do not steal.

16 Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Voices from Church History

“Those who have love are children of God, and those who do not are children of the devil. Have anything else you like, but if you lack this one thing, then all the rest is of no use to you whatsoever. On the other hand, you may lack almost anything else, but if you have this one thing, you have fulfilled the law.”

–Bede (circa 673-735)

Voices from Church History

“If you want the truth to go round the world, you must hire an express train to pull it; but if you want a lie to go round the world it will fly; it is as light as a feather and a breath will carry it.”³

–Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

3. We honor God by cultivating a heart of _____ (Ex. 20:17).

17 Do not covet your neighbor’s house. Do not covet your neighbor’s wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Coveting is not just an obsessive desire to have something. It is being convinced that we can truly delight in someone or something more than God and be fulfilled. It is self-worship by believing that placating our desires will satisfy us.

The only cure for coveting is the gospel. Left to our own devices, we will always choose to fulfill our desires over trusting God to fulfill us. We need rebirth through Christ to stop the restlessness in our hearts and to give us peace and contentment.

Voices from the Church

“Contentment means wanting what God wants for us rather than what we want for us. The secret to enjoying this kind of contentment is to be so satisfied with God that we are able to accept whatever he has or has not provided.”⁴

–Philip Graham Ryken