

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT, PARENTING, AND MARRIAGE

127 (cont'd)

Q. 127. What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?

A. The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is [...] bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love,[k] that so they may be an honour to them and to their government.[1]

[k] 1 Peter 2:18 - “*Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.*”

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Proverbs 23:22 - “Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and *despise not thy mother when she is old.*”

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Genesis 9:23 - “And *Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father,* and their faces were backward, *and they saw not their father's nakedness.*”

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[1] Psalm 127:3-5 - “Lo, *children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; *so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:* they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.”

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Proverbs 31:23 - “*Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*”

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“That great patience, long-sufferance, and much forbearance which parents have shewed towards their children, requireth that children in way of recompence shew the like to their parents as occasion is offered. It was a great infirmity in Isaac to prefer Esau a profane child, before Jacob a religious child, especially against God's express word concerning Jacob; yet Jacob respected not his father a whit the less for it, as appears by his fear to offend him (Gen 27:12), and by his readiness to obey him (Gen 28:5). Jacob's unjust reproof of Joseph was no small infirmity (Gen 37:10), and yet how much Joseph revered and every way respected his father the history following sheweth. Saul's infirmities were far more and much greater than any of theirs, yet what duty and faithfulness did Jonathan his son perform to him, even to their deaths? for he died with him (1 Sam 31:2). We have herein the pattern of Christ himself: how great infirmity did his mother bewray, when over-rashly she rebuked him being about a good work, a bounden duty, his Father's business? yet immediately thereupon it is noted that he went down with his parents, and was subject to them (Luke 2:51): which manifesteth the honour he gave to his mother, notwithstanding her infirmity.” William Gouge, Of Domestical Duties

Q. 128. What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?

A. The sins of inferiors against their superiors are, all neglect of the duties required toward them;[a] envying at,[b] contempt of,[c]...

[a] Matthew 15:4-6 - “For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, **He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say,** Whosoever shall say to his **father** or his **mother**, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; **And honour not his father or his mother**, he shall be free. **Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**”

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[b] Numbers 11:28-29 - “And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, **My lord Moses, forbid them.** And Moses said unto him, **Enviest thou for my sake?** ”

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[c] 1 Samuel 8:7 - “And the LORD said unto Samuel, **Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me,** that I should not reign over them.”

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Isaiah 3:5 - “And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: **the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.**”

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Part 2: The Duties and Sins of Inferiors

Appendix A: Follow-up Questions

*Q. 1: If civil law commands that you do something, but you don't think it helpful to your family to do so, should you still obey?*

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*Q. 2: What if someone falsely claims authority over you, what should you do?*

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*Q. 3: If someone dies while you owe them money, and there are no heirs to pay, what should you do?*

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