

**Serm. Series: The Good, The Goad, The Guide: Ten Commandments**

**Sermon Text:** Exodus 20:12 Honor Authority: Fifth Commandment

2 Tim. 3:2 “For people will be . . . disobedient to their parents”

**Because God is the Father from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named, we honor Him and promote human flourishing as we honor authorities in Christ.**

**1) God’s authority is expressed through earthly authorities (Eph. 3:14-15).**

- a) “the Father (pater), from whom all fatherhood (patria) is named” (Eph. 3:14-15).
- b) God’s government in the home is the most basic expression of divine authority in society.
- c) This principle extends to government (Rom. 13:1-7), masters/employers (Eph. 6:5-9) and church elders (Heb. 13:17).
- d) **Application:**
  - i) We must not absolutize any earthly authority, for this is to fashion an idol in competition with God.
  - ii) We must not despise authority, for this is to deny God’s providential government through earthly means.

**2) We honor God as we honor authorities (Lev. 19:32; Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 6:1-3, 5-9; Col. 3:18-4:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-14, 18-19).**

- a) “Honor” means to show the worth and importance of an office in action, word, and attitude.
- b) Obedience is the primary expression of honor to authorities, but obedience and honor are distinct. Submission to God may require disobedience to authority.
- c) **Application:**
  - i) “We must obey God rather than men.”
  - ii) When it is hard to obey an authority remember that you are serving Christ above all.

**3) We promote human flourishing as we honor authorities (Exod. 20:12b; Eph. 6:3).**

- a) “that you may live long in the land”
  - i) personal fulfillment (Exod. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Deut. 21:18-21)
  - ii) societal fulfillment (Mic. 7:5-6; Isa. 3:5)
- b) Inheriting the Earth
  - i) Eph. 6:8 “knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord”
  - ii) Col. 3:24 “knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward”
- c) Rejection of God’s authority is punished with a lack of good earthly authority (Isa. 3:1-8): “And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them. And the people will oppress one another, everyone his fellow and everyone his neighbor; the youth will be insolent to the elder, and the despised to the honorable.”
- d) **Application:** Exemplify respect for authority as salt and light in the world.

**4) We can only honor God by honoring authorities as we abide in Christ (Eph. 6:1).**

- a) Left to ourselves we pervert both authority and subordination (Micah 7:1-7): “the prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; . . . for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man’s enemies are the men of his own house. But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.”
- b) The End-Time Mission of Elijah/John to Prepare for the Lord’s Coming (Mal. 4:6; Luke 1:17):
  - i) fathers to children and vice versa
  - ii) disobedient to wisdom of the just
  - iii) “to make ready for the Lord a people”
- c) Christ Fulfilled This Law for Us:

- i) Christ honored His parents (Luke 2:51; John 19:26-27)
- ii) Christ honored the governing authorities, even suffering their injustice (John 19:11).
- iii) Christ honored His heavenly Father (John 8:29; 12:27-28; Luke 22:42; 23:46).
- d) Christ Fulfills This Law in Us (Eph. 6:1): "In the Lord"
- e) The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 14:26): "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."
- f) **Application:**
  - i) Children, obey your parents in the Lord.
  - ii) Adults, continue to show honor to your parents (Gen. 9:23)
  - iii) Employees, work as unto the Lord, for you are servants of Christ.
  - iv) Glorify and enjoy God's authority in your attitude and relation to earthly authorities.

**Doxology:** The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. (Psalm 93:1-2)