

## General Principles Regarding the Fifth Commandment

- 1.
2. The moral law is p\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ on all m\_\_\_\_\_ (WLC # 93).
- 3.
4. The T\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ the moral law (WLC # 98).
- 5.
6. Therefore, the f\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_ is p\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ on all men (WLC # 123-125).
- 7.
8. This is true for s\_\_\_\_\_, i\_\_\_\_\_, or e\_\_\_\_\_ (WLC # 126).
- 9.
10. Children, regardless of their age, remain the i\_\_\_\_\_ of their p\_\_\_\_\_ and should always h\_\_\_\_\_ them and not s\_\_\_\_\_ against them (WLC # 127-128).
- 11.
12. Parents, regardless of the age of their children, remain the s\_\_\_\_\_ of their c\_\_\_\_\_ and should always fulfill their r\_\_\_\_\_ as superiors and should not sin against them (WLC # 129-130).
- 13.
14. This is not to say that as children and parents advance in years, children will h\_\_\_\_\_ parents in the same way or parents will be r\_\_\_\_\_ to do the s\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ for their children.
- 15.
16. It is important to stress, however, p\_\_\_\_\_ and their c\_\_\_\_\_ are p\_\_\_\_\_ b\_\_\_\_\_ to keep the fifth commandment in their relationships with one another regardless of a\_\_\_\_\_, m\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ (this does not contradict the Biblical command “to leave and to cleave”), or g\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_ (living inside or outside the house). More on this as we proceed through the class.

**Q. 93 What is the moral law?**

A. The moral law is the declaration of the will of God to mankind, directing and binding everyone to personal, perfect, and perpetual conformity and obedience thereunto, in the frame and disposition of the whole man, soul and body, and in performance of all those duties of holiness and righteousness which he oweth to God and man: promising life upon the fulfilling, and threatening death upon the breach of it.

**Q. 98 Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?**

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments, which were delivered by the voice of God upon Mount Sinai, and written by him in two tables of stone; and are recorded in the twentieth chapter of Exodus: the four first commandments containing our duty to God, and the other six our duty to man.

**Q. 123 Which is the fifth commandment?**

A. The fifth commandment is, “Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

**Q. 124 Who are meant by *father* and *mother* in the fifth commandment?**

A. By *father* and *mother*, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts, and especially such as, by God’s ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth.

**Q. 125 Why are superiors styled *father* and *mother*?**

A. Superiors are styled *father* and *mother*, both to teach them in all duties toward their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents.

**Q. 126 What is the general scope of the fifth commandment?**

A. The general scope of the fifth commandment is, the performance of those duties which we mutually owe in our several relations, as inferiors, superiors, or equals.

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

A. The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and grace; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense, and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.

**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; envying at, contempt of, and rebellion against, their persons and places, in their lawful counsels, commands, and corrections; cursing, mocking, and all such refractory and scandalous carriage, as proves a shame and dishonor to them and their government.

**Q. 129 What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?**

A. It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reproving, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body; and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.

**Q. 130 What are the sins of superiors?**

A. The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, and inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful, or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counseling, encouraging, or favoring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; or anyway dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior.