

5th. Introduction

1A. Initial Question

The fifth commandment definitely speaks about duties that we have in the human family, particularly, duties of children to their parents: **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land” (Eph 6.1-3).** How do we draw inferences from this command to the general authority structures (relationships) of life in the human family at large?

2A. A way to find an answer

We can find much in the way of an answer to this question by considering the Qs and As of the WSC, 64-65. Hint: from the Scripture references, a) how can we arrive at the notion of authority? and b) how can we broaden from the child-parent structure to other relationships in the human family?

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals [a].

[a]. Rom. 13:1, 7; Eph. 5:21-22, 24; 6:1, 4-5, 9; I Pet. 2:17

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongeth to everyone in their several places and relations [a].

[a]. Matt. 15:4-6; Rom. 13:8

3A. The focus of attention for our present treatment of the 5th

Two authority relationships that we will cover are wives to husbands and flock to elders (both in the local setting and in the context of larger relationships between local churches). The former will lead us into a discussion of mutual submission within the structure of headship in marriage. The latter will lead us into a discussion of eldership with particular focus for us at WRC on the need of plurality and how that need may be attained.