

# The 4th Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

1. Who are parents and other authorities?
  - a. Parents are fathers, mothers, and guardians; other authorities are all those whom God has placed over us at home, in government, at school, at the place where we work, and in the church.
2. What does God forbid in the Fourth Commandment?
  - a. God forbids us to despise our parents and other authorities by not respecting them or angering them by our disobedience or by any other sin: Proverbs 23:22; Romans 13:2 (cf. 1 Samuel 2:12, 23, 25; 2 Samuel 15).
3. What does God require of us in the Fourth Commandment?
  - a. God requires us to:
    - i. Honor our parents and other authorities by regarding them as God's representatives: Ephesians 6:2-3 (cf. Genesis 46:29; 1 Kings 2:19; 2 Kings 2:12).
    - ii. To serve our parents and other authorities by gladly providing what they need or require: 1 Timothy 5:4; Romans 13:7 (cf. Genesis 47:11-12; John 19:26).
    - iii. To obey our parents and other authorities in everything in which God has placed them over us: Colossians 3:20; Titus 3:1; Acts 5:29 (cf. Luke 2:51; 1 Samuel 20:31-33).
    - iv. To love and cherish our parents and other authorities as precious gifts of God: Proverbs 23:22 (cf. Ruth).
    - v. To show respect to the aged: Leviticus 19:32.
4. What promise does God attach to this Commandment?
  - a. "That it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land" Ephesians 6:3.