

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Fall/Winter, 2018

Pastor Jim Otte

“Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments”

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Session Eleven: The Fourth Commandment – “Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.”

From Last Session:

1. What responsibilities do parents have to children?

a. **Ephesians 6:1-4.** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”^[a] ⁴ Fathers, ^[b] do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

- b. **“exasperate your children”** – bringing your children to the despair of:
- i. Feeling that no matter what they do, you’ll never be satisfied with them.
 - ii. Fearing that your love is conditional.
 - iii. A divided home in which each parent undermines the other: too harsh/too lenient
 - iv. *“Do as I say; not as I do”*

c. **“instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”**

- i. **Foundational Truth #22: “Instruction”** involves what children know of the faith; **“training”** involves _____ it, and deal with its consequences, positive or negative.
- ii. Devotions; prayers; church attendance; tithing; walking the walk; dealing with rejection; repairing hurt with forgiveness; how to dissent honorably and with respect; other?
- iii. Preparing the child for the journey of faith; how does my faith inform my life?

2. What is the responsibility parents have to teach/model their relationship with Jesus?

a. **Deuteronomy 11:16-19.** *Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. ¹⁷ Then the LORD’s anger will burn against you, and he will shut up the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you. ¹⁸ Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your*

foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- i. **“Fix these words”** – intentional repetitions of God’s Word, recited and practiced so regularly; then acted on consistently to reinforce what is spoken.
- ii. **“Teach them to your children, talking...”** –
 - i. **Foundational Truth #23.** Take advantage of the wonderful teaching opportunities which _____ provides: when blessings come our way, and when we deal with hardship or injustices.

3. What challenges do Christian parents today face?

- a. Households with absent fathers (39% 2018).
- b. Substance abuse: alcohol; drugs; opiates; sex; etc.
- c. Tablets are the new babysitters.
- d. Distracted parenting.
- e. Sunday morning sports/activities for kids taking precedence over church
- f. Ignorance of what kids are doing online.

4. Are there limits to “obeying” teachers and employers? How might we obey this commandment given the realities of...

1. Having to work on Sundays?
2. Employers who make unethical demands on their employees?
3. Employers who demand unreasonable sacrifices on their employees, i.e. 70-80 hr work weeks; 24/7 availability (answering emails, etc.)
4. Age discrimination?
5. Workplace abuse and sexual harassment?
6. Teachers who play favorites with students?
7. Parents who bully teachers/school administrators
8. Students who bully teachers
9. ***Ephesians 6:5-9.*** *Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. ⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.*
 - a. **“as you would obey Christ...as slaves of Christ”** – The Bible doesn’t address the issue of slavery from a “right/wrong” perspective. Instead, it accepts it as a current reality, giving encouragement to those who are in that station of life: slaves and slave masters.

- b. **Foundational Truth #24**. The principle of honor and respect extends from slave to master, as well as master _____ slave.