

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

**“Honor” - finding the ‘majesty’ hidden in the authority person**

**1. How might we honor our employers given the realities of...**

- a. Employers who make unethical demands on their employees?
- b. Employers who demand unreasonable sacrifices on their employees, i.e. 70-80 hr work weeks; 24/7 availability (answering emails, etc.)
- c. Age discrimination?
- d. Workplace abuse and sexual harassment?
- e. Teachers who play favorites with students?
- f. Parents who bully teachers/school administrators
- g. Students who bully teachers
- h. ***Ephesians 6:5-9***. *Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. <sup>9</sup> 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.*
  - i. **“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.
  - ii. **Foundational Truth #24**. The principle of honor and respect extends from slave to master, as well as master \_\_\_\_\_ slave.

**2. Are there limits to obeying the government? How might we respect the authority of the government given the realities of... How might we respond with mercy to government workers**

- a. Governments which restricts religious liberty?
- b. Christians restricted or face prosecution from exercising their faith in their own businesses?
- c. Conscientious objection?

- d. Government decisions which fly in the face of religious convictions?
- i. Capital punishment?
  - ii. War?
  - iii. Access to contraceptives? (mostly a Roman Catholic issue)
  - iv. Social issues such as abortion, gay marriage, legalized gambling; medicinal and recreational marijuana; etc.
- e. ***Romans 13:1-7.*** *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. <sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*
- f. **Foundational Truth #25.** Respect the difference between God's \_\_\_\_\_ realms of ruling in the world: through the Church and through the State (Lutheran Confessions: Martin Luther)

<b>Church (Right Hand)</b>	<b>State (Left Hand)</b>
<b>Purpose:</b> preach the gospel; administer worship and offer Christian education	<b>Purpose:</b> order, civil peace, justice; so that the Church can be free to fulfill its purpose.
<b>Tools:</b> Law/Gospel; Word & Sacraments:	<b>Tools:</b> the "sword," power; force; reason, laws of the land;
<b>Aspirations:</b> receive God's grace, through faith in Jesus, forgiveness, and be a fellow citizen in the kingdom of God	<b>Aspirations:</b> do what is right in the laws of the land.
<b>Relationship to Society:</b> champion causes from a Christian foundation, i.e. Lutherans for Life; as individual citizens, but not as collective churches seeking to refine society	<b>Relationship to Society:</b> support causes in the best interests of the state

<b>Duties:</b> vote, serve jury duty, campaign for elected offices; etc.	<b>Duties:</b> same
<b>Spiritual Righteousness</b>	<b>Civic Righteousness</b>

- g. Lutheran DNA , regarding the role of religion in society, hearkens back to the differences between the reformers.

<b>Martin Luther</b>	<b>John Calvin</b>
“The Church has the authority to grant eternal things and exercises this authority only by the ministry of the Word. (The Church) does not interfere with civil government.”	The gospel has not completed its work unless society is reformed.

**3. Are there limits to obeying the church or the spiritual authorities in the Body of Christ? How might we show gratitude for spiritual authorities given the realities of...**

- i. Unjustified excommunications from churches?
- ii. Abusive or bullying clergy?
- iii. Church members who undermine pastors/lay leadership?
- iv. Pastors who unilaterally make decisions/changes
  - 1. **Acts 5:29.** *“We obey God, not man.”*
  - 2. **Matthew 18:15.** *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.”*
  - 3. Abuse is required to be reported to authorities.
  - 4. Dissent is a necessary part of Christian and citizenship life.
    - a. Tough on issues; easy on people
    - b. Respectful tone: non-contemptuous; no personal attacks; no assuming bad intent; no gossip
    - c. Separate fact from opinion
    - d. May experience retribution; avoid tit-for-tat
    - e. Caution against social media venting
    - f. Be prepared for possibility you may not get justice
    - g. Work to fully forgive even if you cannot fully trust.

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**Calendar Reminders:**

No Class first 2 Sundays of December:

Children’s Christmas programs during Sunday School hour