

The Covenantal Life  
Week 8 - Family Covenant Obligations

- Covenant duty can be discerned in part by the nature of the covenant—what it accomplishes
  - Family covenant establishes basic and foundational community arising out of natural unions
  - The duties work to the end of maintaining unity among that natural community
  - Two of the ten commandments deal particularly with the family: 7th and 5th
- Honor for parents is the unique, foundational duty in the family covenant - grounds the whole thing
  - An attitude and practical outworking of respect for those whom God has used to bring you into the world, no qualification, no exceptions, at every stage of life
    - **Proverbs 6:20-24** - commands to be remembered and observed in all of life
  - Young children honor by prompt, joyful obedience - Col. 3:20
    - Children obeying their parents is them obeying God in one of the only capacities they are able to
  - Older children honor by imitating, demonstrating evident respect, obeying even with greater liberty - Prov. 23:22-26
    - Different character of obedience than young children, but obedience nonetheless
  - Adult children honor by seeking counsel, heeding wisdom, acknowledging genuine remaining authority - 1 Ki. 2:1-4, 3:6-9
    - Humility to acknowledge that parents have valuable life experience from which there is still much to learn
    - Especially must recognize authority when it comes to marriage
  - Children of aged parents honor by becoming the caretakers for them - Mk. 7:9-13
    - Dishonoring parents to such a degree that they are left uncared for in old age is akin to denying the faith (1 Tim. 5:8)
  - Children of deceased parents honor their legacy, memory, and striving to be trustworthy stewards of all that has been inherited (Solomon, Isaac, Jacob, his 12 sons)
    - Not superstitious or life dominating, but thoughtful respect and a sense of responsibility to carry on something that was entrusted to us
  - Throughout generations, the 5th commandment shapes the life of the covenant family
- Specific duties of parents to children in the family covenant
  - Faithful education in the Lord - Deut. 6:4-9, Eph. 6:4
  - Discipline sin - Proverbs, Heb. 12:7-11
  - Do not frustrate/exasperate - Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21
- Family covenant encompasses extended family (Rom. 9:3, 1 Tim. 5:8)