

discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; or any way dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior. Eph. 6:4, 1Sam. 3:13.

**Q. 131. What are the duties of equals?**

A. The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each others' gifts and advancement, as their own. Rom. 12:15,16.

**Q. 132. What are the sins of equals?**

A. The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement or prosperity one of another; and usurping preeminence one over another.

**Q. 133. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it?**

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, in these words, *That thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee*, is an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good, to all such as keep this commandment. Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-3

**How to pray over this commandment—to honour parents and all who are over us!**

1. Pray to live in the fear of God who sees and judges every thought, word and action.
2. Pray for a servant spirit.
3. Acknowledge unto God that your gifts and graces are to be used for the benefit and blessing of others.
4. Ask God to guard your heart against every form of jealousy.
5. Pray for opportunities to display submission and give assistance to others.
6. Pray for help to so minister in your own home to serve your spouse and family.
7. Ask for a thankful heart and grace to show appreciation.
8. Pray for a serving attitude to bring glory to God, not to self.
9. Resolve before God not to seek the well done of men. Leave it to God to honour you.
10. Pray that God will use your example to encourage others to give their lives to humble service for God's glory.

Don't expect this kind of witness from carnal men. It is the Christian who is to let others see their good works. Matt. 5:16.

**The Free Presbyterian Church in Cloverdale Prayer Meeting May 25/16  
The Fifth Commandment. Exodus 20:12**

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**Larger Catechism Q. 123. Which is the fifth commandment?**

A. The fifth commandment is, *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

**Q. 124. Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?**

A. By *father* and *mother*, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; and especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth. 1Tim. 5:1

**Q. 125. Why are superiors styled Father and Mother?**

A. Superiors are styled *Father* and *Mother*, both to teach them in all duties toward their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents. 1Thess 2:7,8; 1Cor.4:14

**Q. 126. What is the general scope of the fifth commandment?**

A. The general scope of the fifth commandment is, the performance of those duties which we mutually owe in our several relations, as inferiors, superiors or equals. Eph. 5:21; Rom. 12:10; 1Peter 2:17.

**Q. 127. What is the honour that inferiors owe to their superiors?**

A. The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense, and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government. Malachi 1:6

**Q. 128. What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?**

A. The sins of inferiors against their superiors are, all neglect of the duties required toward them; envying at, contempt of, and rebellion against their persons and places, in their lawful counsels, commands, and corrections; cursing, mocking, and all such refractory and scandalous carriage, as proves a shame and dishonor to them and their government.

**Q. 129. What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?**

A. It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reproving, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body: and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them. Col 3:19, Job. 1:5; Deut. 4:6.

**Q. 130. What are the sins of superiors?**

A. The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, an inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful, or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counseling, encouraging, or favoring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or