

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

DEVOTION

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER. (EXODUS 20:12)

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 them, love and cherish them.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)

FOR SHARING

1. A bumper sticker says, "Question Authority." What "hidden messages" do the words convey? Why is authority a negative concept for many people?
2. Our parents are the first authority figures in our lives. In what ways is the stability and strength of society dependent on the health of the family?
3. What other authority comes from God? How do these authorities reflect God's will for a strong, stable society?
4. Though He possessed all authority in heaven and on earth, Jesus came to earth to obey all true authority. He humbled Himself and submitted to the will of sinful authorities who put Him to death. Share what Jesus' willing sacrifice means to you.
5. Honor, serve, love, and cherish. By the power of God's Spirit, how might we appreciate our parents and other authorities in our life?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to You. Help me to respect those to whom You have chosen as representatives of Your authority: parents, police officers, elected officials, and pastors and leaders who are called by You to serve in Your church. Give those in authority the wisdom they need to make decisions that are pleasing to You and good for Your people. In Jesus' name. Amen.