Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #476

**Law 5th**

Brothers & Sisters**, we express our hope at the start of our worship using a central theme of Scripture: Our Help…** Receive The Lord’s Greeting: Grace, Peace, mercy and Love be yours from God our Father, & J/C our Lord. ***Amen***

*Let us now joyfully sing to Our God,* **a Song of Praise: #103 *vs.1-3* “Praise God My Soul”**

 ***We will use that creed to remind ourselves of what we believe and what is most important tonight!***

 ***Please recite the Apostles Creed with me in answer to this question:* Christians, What do you believe?**

 Let’s continue to worship the Lord as we stand together to sing another song to the glory of our God and Savior Jesus Christ… We will sin **#216 – In Christ Alone!**

 ***We come now to our time of congregational prayer – this is what many children call “the long prayer” – This is not NAP time… this is the time to pray together as God’s people, and to literally speak to God as our Heavenly Father – asking Him to provide what we need!***

**As *an act of worship, let us now, joyfully and obediently return to the Lord a portion of that which He has given to us!*** Let us worship with God’s tithes/freewill offerings ***(as Deacons come)***

We will continue to worship God now as we stand and sing, **#420 – Onward Christian Soldiers!**

**Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 5:16 Sermon Title: *The Promising Commandment***

**\* Song of Response: #475 “When we walk with the Lord – Trust & Obey”**

***May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ , & the Love of God the Father, & the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***

 **\* Doxology: Song #523**

# Evening Sermon: “The Promising Commandment?”

Text: Deuteronomy 5:16 Reading: Ephesians 6:1-9 ***INCLUDE reading of LD39***

**Introduction:** Have your parents ever told you that they would reward you for doing something? Perhaps they said you could have desert if you finished your dinner, or maybe they said they would give you a treat if you cleaned your room. Have they done that?! Have you ever realized how generous that is?! They don’t ever ***have*** to give you anything special, because eating your food and cleaning your room are things you are just supposed to do when told… but out of their love and grace, your parents give you a promise… **if you obey** *(as you already should…)* **I will give you such and such a reward…**  ***It really is wonderful!***

***Tonight, we see the same thing as we turn to the 5th commandment.***

God gives a commandment that you and I are obligated to obey because God is our Creator… And yet, he offers us this dual promise of blessings and long life if we obey and honor all lawful authority!

***There is one central lesson here:***

 ***God graciously promises blessing and long life to children IF you honor your parents!*** *Perhaps more completely: God promises blessing and long life to those who honor all lawful authority!*

*Tonight, we will examine the text under 2 un-equal headings:*

1. **Children: Honor your Parents in the Lord**
2. **Everyone: Honor All Lawful Authority in the Lord**

*The burden of this commandment is to teach you children how to Honor and Obey your parents, and so we are going to begin with you! Our first point is:*

# Children: Honor your Parents in the Lord (REPEAT)

* 1. *Now* ***What*** *does it mean to honor your parents?* ***It means you Obey and Respect them.***

What does obey mean? *Let’s think of some examples…* If your mom says, clean up those toys on the floor, what does it mean to obey? ***It means you clean up those toys on the floor! Right?!***

But what if you don’t clean them up right away… If you decide to play a little longer and then you go ride your bike and then you clean up those toys on the floor - **is that obeying?** Not really, because an important part of obeying is more than just doing what you’re told – *it is doing what you are told, right away or quickly!*

**So, let’s say you are told to clean up those toys on the floor**, and you start cleaning them up right away, but you don’t actually do a good job… you leave a few Lego pieces on the floor, or you just pile the toys in your room instead of putting them in the right box… **is that obeying?** No, not really… because when you do a sloppy job or when you don’t do the job well … then you haven’t done what you were told to do!

So obeying is doing what your Mom and Dad tell you to do, right away when they tell you to do it, and it means you do a good job right from the start. ***That is what it means to obey!***

**But what does it mean to Respect your parents? It is obeying from your heart, obeying with your attitude!**  *Let’s think of some examples …* If your Dad tells you to share one of your toys with your brother/sister, How do you respect and obey your Dad? By quickly giving one of your toys to your brother/sister.

Now, If your Dad tells you to share one of your cars with your brother– and you obey right away and give your brother one of your cars, but you give it to him by throwing it at him while crying, “I don’t want to…” *is that respecting or obeying your Dad?* No! You are dis-respecting your Dad, because even though you obeyed physically with your body – *you gave your brother the car…* you disobeyed in your heart and emotions by your crying/complaining… **What should you do?** When told to give a car to your brother, you must happily give your brother that car (without crying/complaining, or throwing it – no tantrums!).

 **Now, Let’s change the situation…** what if your Dad comes into the room and says, “we are getting ready to go, please put down that toy and come get in the car” How do you respect your dad? Do you Cry/scream? **No…** Is it respectful to keep playing and tell your dad all the reasons why you should be allowed to keep playing? **No!** Is it respectful to put down your toy and make a dirty face and stomp angrily to the car? **No…** **not at all! RATHER: What should you do?** You should say, “Yes Dad” and quickly put your toy away, and with a happy heart go to the car.

* 1. **Sadly, too often your parents (myself included) confuse obedience with Honor**

Honoring your parents means so much more than just obeying – it means obeying right away, quickly, sweetly and completely. **If you obey with an unhappy heart – and you are angry or moaning and crying – then you are NOT Honoring your Parents**! If I allow my children to disobey or obey with a dirty attitude, then I am failing them as a Dad – Because I am not doing my God-given job to teach him ***how*** to honor and obey God’s authorities in life!

Why is honoring your parents so important? For two reasons:

**1st God commanded you to Honor your parents** – Is it important to obey God? YES! So, since God Himself has told you to obey and respect your parents, then you had better obey or you will be in real danger!

*Now the second reason why honoring your parents is so important is this:*

**2nd God put your parents in charge, and they represent Him.** God doesn’t speak directly to us anymore – but He continues to speak to His people in 3 ways: (1) through His Word (the Bible), (2) through the Holy Spirit in our hearts and conscience, and (3) through those He puts in charge, Like your Dad and Mom! Your Mom and your Dad are commanded by God to raise you and care for you, and when you disobey or dishonor them, you are actually disobeying God Himself! Is it safe or good to dishonor God? ***NO! Not at all… and so it is never good to disobey or dishonor your parents! To do so is dangerous!***

But God doesn’t focus on the danger or the punishment in this commandment – rather He does that nice thing we talked about in the introduction. Even though you MUST Honor your parents, God Promises that **if you do…** He will bless you! **There are two parts to this blessing!**

He says, if you Honor your parents, (1) you will have a long life, and (2) things will go well for you. When you are little, you don’t think about dying or living long – but this is a very special promise! This is better than just a promise of desert for eating your food or cleaning your room! A long blessed life is what most people want! ***Now, this isn’t a guarantee,*** if you honor your parents God doesn’t OWE you a long life and blessing, but in general that is what He gives to those who obey this commandment! It is a wonderful Promising Commandment!

The ultimate fulfillment of this Promise is eternal life – in the new Heavens and the New Earth! With no pain, tears or sin! So, you might ask: So, How do I get that? By obeying my Parents I can go to heaven?! No! Rather, Learn your Parent’s faith… Learn to love and trust in Jesus Christ not just in words, but in actions as well… and then that leads you to this path of eternal life promised here!

*You see, this commandment doesn’t only speak to children, it actually speaks to Everyone… because secondly we see:*

# Everyone: Must Honor All Lawful Authority in the Lord (REPEAT)

* 1. **First off, this means that even Adult children must Honor their parents…**

But, that honor does change forms – an adult child doesn’t owe his parents the same obligation to obey quickly and sweetly – especially if they have moved out or are married!

***So, How do adult children honor their parents?***

 Adult children still need to Respect their parents – just because you are your own man/woman, by no means gives you the right to be rude to your parents! *If you verbally abuse your parents, or you neglect their needs and exploit them – then you are breaking this commandment!* Rather, you need to show them respect and love by contacting them, keeping up with their needs, and by caring or providing for them as needed and as you are able.

***What about those whose parents are not “in the Lord”*** you honor your parents by witnessing in word, actions and attitude, and by serving your Heavenly Father first and foremost! Which means you are involved in the life of the church family as if it were your blood family – while never neglecting the needs of your unsaved parents/family.

Now you might say, How does that Honor them? In an objective sense: **Witnessing is honoring because you are seeking their ultimate good/salvation – their biggest need is being addressed – just as you can’t honor your parents while watching them starve to death (with food in your hand) *so you can’t honor your parents watching them go to Hell without Christ while holding salvation yourself*. The most honorable thing you can do is to witness to them of Christ’s offer of salvation.**

 Now, is that all this commandment does? Does it only direct people how to honor and obey their parents? No, the understanding throughout the history of God’s people is that this commandment covers much more… As we already said the 5th commandment teaches how all people should respond to all lawful authority. But it doesn’t stop there – this commandment, by implication also explains how Parents and Leaders should act!

* 1. **The 5th com. Addresses everyone in this world regarding all lawful authority**

The authors of the Westminster Confession explain this part of the 5th commandment in their Catechisms. They very helpfully explain that all those in authority and all those under authority both are required to act properly before God by the 5th commandment. In the same way as the prohibition of murder requires the preservation of life… **So ,the command to obey authority also requires authorities to be godly in their oversight of those who must obey!**

We see this proven by what the Apostle Paul teaches in Ephesians 6, because he began explaining this commandment regarding children, and then he went on to explain how parents, slaves and masters should all act. *He wasn’t changing the subject as you might think – rather, he was simply explaining all the implications of this command.* The Church fathers and the puritans explained this by using the analogy of Fatherhood – the leader of a nation in the past was sometimes called the Father to that nation. Spiritual leaders and even secular leaders also often get that label as a father or parent to those under there care/leadership. And so, in that same vein, all those whom God has placed in leadership are owed Lawful honor and obedience.

Now when I say lawful authority… I am referring to rightly elected or reigning leaders of nations. For instance, when Hitler invaded Holland and France and other European nations, He was not the lawful authority of those nations. It was right and Biblical for the Dutch and French to resist the Nazi’s. **However, if the “OTHER” political party gets into office (ie NOW!)**, you do not have any right to claim that they are not lawful authority and so you don’t have to honor them. Rather, you must Honor them in the Lord – meaning you obey the LORD GOD FIRST, and then you obey the State. The Government never has the right to command you to do something that the Bible forbids! And yet if the Bible has commanded something – then even if the State outlaws it, you are still to obey God rather than men. You see, while this commandment speaks to children about Honoring their parents – the ultimate application is that Parents and all Leaders might fulfill their office well: *commanding nations & training children in the way of the Lord God of the Bible!*

And when people honor/obey all lawful authority, and ultimately God their father – this general promise of long life and blessing comes true! While those that live rebelliously against all authority and ultimately against God, normally find God’s justice!

**Conclusion:** I believe the final application of this commandment actually belongs to the parents… because you play the greatest role in applying these truths to your children!

 **Parents, when God commands children to honor you, That includes attitude.** Honoring you and Honoring God is more than just obeying physically – it is obeying happily, quickly and completely without whining/pouting. We all struggle with being too lazy/frustrated to address unhappy hearts. After a long day, when the children have been difficult, & they are whining, it is easy to just accept plain obedience & let them whine… But when we neglect to address their unhappy hearts we are failing to hold our children to God’s standard. **We are hurting them & ourselves.**

Their unhappy hearts don’t seem that dangerous now because they only cry or whine for a while, but if left unaddressed those hearts of anger will only grow in intensity until **the teen years …** **when** your children will have the strength and other resources to act out in ways we all fear! Our neglect now just might be making a rod for our own backs in the future!

***But that isn’t the only reason***… Positively – would you like it if your parents had trained you better to respond graciously and in a godly way to the trials and pain of life? IT would be lovely if you had the ability to have emotional self-control while your world is upside down! **You can give that gift to your children NOW, while they are young!**

Hold your children to this standard of obeying with the right heart**, indeed hold yourselves to this standard and you will find that your job as a parent gets easier** (*not the first day or the first week) but over weeks, months and years,* those of you who consistently and diligently address the heart of your children will experience that God’s promise will come true – things will go well with you and your children!

 And … God Willing, you and your children will not only experience long earthly life… but even better, you will receive the greatest fulfillment of this promise: in EVERLASTING LIFE thru Faith in Jesus Christ! **Amen.**