

Honor Your Father and Your Mother....

Overview

The Commandment, *Honor your father and your mother*, is a commandment that is stated in the positive so to speak, so that it does not openly forbid a particular form of evil. Instead, it is a commandment which calls us to honor our parents, both earthly and spiritual. There are, however, several pitfalls that a person can avoid as part of his or her practice of this Commandment. These include the following:

- Contempt
- Disobedience (disobeying what is true)
- Rebellion

Blank page for correct, two-sided photocopying

Honor Your Father and Your Mother....

Quick Reference
- from -
Secrets of Heaven

Emanuel Swedenborg

Note: This Commandment is stated in the positive, so that it does not openly forbid a particular form of evil. There are, however, three pitfalls that a person can avoid as part of his or her practice of this Commandment. These have been bolded and underlined for quick identification.

"Honor your father and your mother..."¹

1. This means...
 - a. Love for good and truth (in the internal sense).
 - b. [Love] for the Lord and for His kingdom (in the supreme sense).
2. [Notes:]
 - a. "To honor" [means] to love.
 - 1) In heaven one loves another.
 - 2) When he or she loves he also honors.
 - 3) [The reason is that] within honor there is love.
 - 4) Honor without love is refused in heaven, nay, it is rejected.
 - a) [The reason for this is that honor without love] is devoid of life from good.
3. "Father" [means]...
 - a. Good (in the internal sense).
 - b. The Lord as to divine good (in the supreme sense).
 - 1) The Lord in the supreme sense is the "father".
 - 2) He gives new life to a person.
 - 3) [In this way] the person becomes a son and heir of His kingdom.
4. "Mother" [means]...
 - a. Truth (in the internal sense).
 - b. The Lord as to divine truth (in the supreme sense), thus His kingdom.
 - 1) The divine truth which proceeds from the Lord makes heaven.
5. [Notes:]
 - a. The Lord as to divine good is the sun in the other life.
 - b. As to the divine truth [He] is the light.
 - c. This divine light from the Lord as the sun is what illumines angelic minds.
 - d. [It] fills them with intelligence and wisdom.
 - e. [It] makes them to be angels of light.
 - f. Divine good is within divine truth, as heat from the sun is within the light in the time of spring and summer in the world.

"That your days may be prolonged upon the land..."²

1. This means the consequent state of life in heaven.
2. "Your days" [means] states of life.

3. "To be prolonged" [has to do with] good and its increase.
4. "Land" [means] the kingdom of the Lord.

"Which Jehovah your God gives you."³

1. This means...
 - a. Where the Divine is.
 - b. Consequent influx.
2. "Jehovah God" denotes the Divine [in heaven].
3. "To give" denotes influx.
4. Heaven...is the reception of influx from the Divine.
5. [Notes:]
 - a. The commandments of the Decalogue are rules of life both for those who are in the world and for those who are in heaven.
 - 1) The sense of the letter or the external sense [is] for those who are in the world.
 - 2) The spiritual or internal sense [is] for those who are in heaven.
 - 3) Both senses...are for those who while they are in the world are also in heaven,
 - a) That is, for those who are in the good of life according to the truths of doctrine.
 - b. In heaven parents and children do not come together the same as on earth.
 - 1) There they have the Lord [as their] "father" and His kingdom [as their] "mother".
 - c. By this [commandment] is meant...
 - 1) Love [for] the Lord.
 - 2) The consequent love of good and truth which are from the Lord.
 - d. [Because of this...]
 - 1) **Contempt for parents** is [included] among the crimes which are meant [in the Word] by "shedding blood".⁴
 - 2) **Disobedient and rebellious** sons were stoned.⁵

[Final notes:]⁶

1. In the Word by "mother" is meant the...kingdom of the Lord.
2. The kingdom of the Lord on the earth is called "the church".
3. Therefore, ["mother" also means the church.]
4. The sons born of this mother are truths.
 - a. [These truths] are called "the sons of the kingdom".⁷
5. To all those who are in it, the Lord's kingdom is their country.
6. [Therefore] one's country is [also meant by] "mother" (in the earthly sense).

Parents Must Be Honored.

Quick Reference
- from -
The Apocalypse Explained
Emanuel Swedenborg

Parents must be honored.⁸

1. [In the Word,] honor to parents [represents and thus means...]
 - a. Love to the Lord.
 - b. Love towards the church.
2. "Father" (that is, the Heavenly Father) is the Lord.
 - a. In heaven...no other father but the Lord is known.
 - 1) Call no [one] your father on earth; for one is your Father who is in the heavens.⁹
 - 2) [Note: The above] was said [by the Lord] with reference to children and angels in heaven, and not of children and people on earth.¹⁰
 - b. "Father" means the Lord as to the divine good.
3. "Mother" (that is, the heavenly mother) is the church.
 - a. [In heaven,] no other mother but the kingdom of the Lord [is known].
 - b. [This] is also the church.
 - c. "Mother" means...
 - 1) The Lord's kingdom.
 - 2) The church.
 - 3) The divine truth.
4. "Honor" means the good of love.
5. "Length of days"...means the happiness of eternal life.
6. [Notes:]
 - a. The Lord gives life from Himself.
 - b. He gives nourishment through the church.
 - c. The third and fourth commandments involve secrets relating to the Lord.
 - d. [These secrets are...]
 - 1) The acknowledgment and confession of His Divine.
 - 2) The worship of Him from the good of love.

Blank page for correct, two-sided photocopying

Honor Your Father and Your Mother....

Quick Reference

- from -

True Christianity

Emanuel Swedenborg

Earthly sense:¹¹

1. "To honor your father and your mother" means to...
 - a. Honor parents.
 - 1) Be obedient to them.
 - 2) Be devoted to them.
 - 3) Return thanks to them for the benefits they confer.
 - a) They provide food and clothing for their children.
(1) [In this way] they introduce their children into the world, that they may act in it as civil and moral persons.
 - b) They introduce their children also into heaven.
(1) [They do this] by means of the precepts of religion.
 - c) [In these ways they provide] for...
 - (1) Their temporal prosperity.
 - (2) Their eternal happiness.
 - d) Parents do all of this from a love which they have from the Lord, in whose stead they act.
 - b. Honor guardians (if parents are dead).
 - c. Honor the king and magistrates.
 - 1) These provide for all in general the necessities which parents provide in particular.
 - d. Love [your] country.
 - 1) [The country] supports and protects [people].
 - 2) Therefore, it is called fatherland (from father).
 2. [Notes:]
 - a. Honor must be rendered by parents to country, king, and magistrates, [and it must be] implanted by [parents] in their children.

Spiritual sense:¹²

1. "To honor father and mother" means to...
 - a. Revere and love God.
 - 1) God...is the father of all.
 - 2) "Father" [means] God.
 - b. Revere the [good and truth of the] church.
 - 1) "Mother" [means] the church.
 - a) A mother on earth nourishes her children with natural food.
 - b) [Likewise] the church nourishes her children with spiritual food.
 - c) Jesus stretched forth His hand towards His disciples and said, "My mother and My brethren are these who hear the Word of God and do it."¹³

2. [Notes:]
 - a. In the heavens little children and the angels know no other father and no other mother [than God and the church].
 - b. [The reason is that] they are there born anew of the Lord through the church.
 - c. Therefore the Lord says:
 - 1) Call no [one] your father on the earth; for one is your Father, who is in the heavens.¹⁴
 - d. [Note: The above] was said [by the Lord] with reference to children and angels in heaven, and not of children and people on earth.¹⁵
 - e. The Lord teaches the same thing in the common prayer of the Christian churches:
 - 1) Our Father who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name.¹⁶

Heavenly sense:¹⁷

1. "Father" means...
 - a. Our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. [Scripture:]
 - 1) Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. His name is God, Mighty, Father of eternity, Prince of Peace.¹⁸
 - 2) You are our Father; Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; You are our Father, our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.¹⁹
 - 3) Philip said, "Show us the Father." Jesus says to him, "He that sees Me sees the Father. How do you say then, 'Show us the Father'? Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me."²⁰
2. "Mother" [means]...
 - a. The communion of saints,
 - 1) That is, the Lord's church spread throughout the whole world.
 - 2) [That is,] the New Church which the Lord is at this day establishing, and not the preceding church.
 - 3) [Editorial note: In the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, "the New Church" does not refer to a church organization, but rather, to all people who pattern their lives after genuine truths of religion (see *Final notes* below).]
 - 4) The spiritual offspring which are born from [the marriage of the Lord with this church] are the goods of charity and the truths of faith.
 - 5) Those who are in these from the Lord are called...
 - a) "Sons of the marriage".
 - b) "Sons of God".
 - c) "Born of God".

[Final notes:]²¹

1. A divine, heavenly aura of love continually goes forth from the Lord toward all who...
 - a. Embrace the [doctrinal truths] of His church.
 - b. Are obedient to Him, as children are to their father and mother in the world.
 - c. Devote themselves to Him.
 - d. Wish to be fed, that is, instructed by Him.
2. From the influx of that heavenly aura into the natural world...
 - a. Vegetation [develops] from seed to fruit, and again to new seed.

- b. Many kinds of plants turn, as it were, their faces to the sun during the day, and turn them away when the sun sets.
- c. There are flowers that open at the rising of the sun and close at its setting.
- d. Songbirds sing sweetly at the early dawn, and likewise after they have been fed by their mother earth.
- e. [Notes:]
 - 1) [In this way] do all of these honor their father and mother.
 - 2) They all bear testimony that...the Lord provides...all necessities, both for animate and inanimate things.
- f. [Scripture:]
 - 1) Praise Jehovah from the heavens; praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him from the earth, you [great sea creatures] and all deeps; praise Him, fruitful trees and all cedars, beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying fowl, kings of the earth and all peoples, young men and maidens.²²
 - 2) Ask, I pray, the beasts and they shall teach you; or the fowls of the air and they shall tell you; or the shrub of the earth and it shall teach you; and the fishes of the sea shall declare to you. Who does not know from all these things that the hand of Jehovah has wrought this?²³
 - a) [Note:] "Ask and they will teach" means to observe, study, and judge from these things that the Lord Jehovah created them.

Blank page for correct, two-sided photocopying

Endnotes

-
- ¹ SH 8897
² SH 8898
³ SH 8899
⁴ SH 8899, Ezek. 22:6,7
⁵ SH 8899, Deut. 21:18-21
⁶ SH 8900
⁷ SH 8900, Matt. 13:38
⁸ AE 966:2
⁹ AE 966:2, Matt. 23:9
¹⁰ TC 306, emphasis added
¹¹ TC 305
¹² TC 306
¹³ TC 306, Matt. 12:48-50, Mark 3:33-35, Luke 7:21, John 19:25-27
¹⁴ TC 306, Matt. 23:9
¹⁵ TC 306, emphasis added
¹⁶ TC 306, Matt. 6:9
¹⁷ TC 307
¹⁸ TC 307, Isa. 9:6
¹⁹ TC 307, Isa. 63:16
²⁰ TC 307, John 14:8-11, 12:45
²¹ TC 308
²² TC 308, Ps. 148:1-12
²³ TC 308, Job 12:7-9