

March 26th of 2023

Proverbs

Sayings of the Wise



4th Commandment & Proverbs?

Commandments 1-3 show us how to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. In Commandments 4-10, we learn how to fear, love, and cherish our neighbors as ourselves. More specifically, in the 4th Commandment, we learn that we are to honor our Father and Mother. Indeed, we should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

There are two sides to this 4th Commandment, though. In other words, children are to honor, love, and cherish their parents (Eph. 6:1-3); however, parents are also to honor, love, and cherish their children even more (Eph. 6:4). It has been said before that in marriage, a husband *dies to himself* to love and serve his wife above himself. And the same can be said about the family – the husband and wife *die to themselves* to love and serve their children. And in a unique turn of events, when the parents become elderly, their children return the favor by *dying to themselves* in their care for their parents as their parents approach the grave. To the point; love, sacrifice, and charity begin in the home.

STUDY 5

4TH COMMANDMENT &
PROVERBS?

IT'S REALLY ABOUT
AUTHORITY

THE GIFT OF DISCIPLINE?

FOUR KINDS OF FATHERS

STAY IN YOUR LANE!!

THE CURSE OF TYRANNY
AND ANARCHY!!!

It's Really About Authority

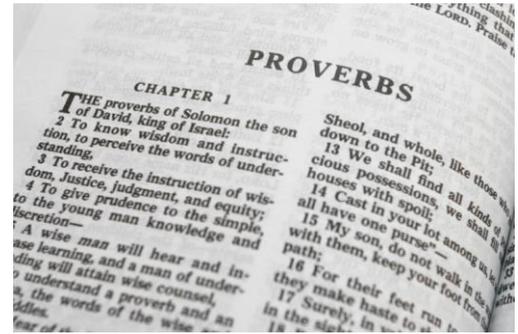
The 4th Commandment is not only about parents, but it also includes all authority, authority such as kings, police, judges, etc. Proverbs has much to say about the respect of authority: 16:12, 16:14, 19:12, 20:2, 20:8, 20:26, 28:20, 25:6-7, 28:15-16, 29:4, 29:12, 29:14, etc. But why is authority needed; why is it a gift? In the 4th Commandment, the Lord seeks to protect us from the terrible destructive power of *Anarchy*. Without the gift of authority, the sinful nature is not regulated (curbed), which results in violence, crime, and exploitation. Consider the damage done by anarchy. It may take decades to build a city; however, anarchy can destroy the same city in 3 days.

The Gift of Discipline?

The Book of Proverbs is full of verses that talk about the need for discipline by parents: 12:24, 19:18, 20:30, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15, 29:17, 29:19, etc. But why is discipline a gift? Obviously, if parents discipline children, the children won't need to be recipients of the sword of the state. Again, without the gift of authority, the sinful nature runs rampant in a family and the society. A breakdown in a family leads to a breakdown in the society.

Four Kinds of Fathers

All authority is derived from parents. For example, where a father is not able to bring up a child, the father will call upon a teacher to teach him. When a father is not present, he calls upon a police officer to curb his son or daughter on the road while driving. And so, teachers, police officers, and so forth stand in the place of parents. (*i.e., teachers are not an alternative authority but derive their authority from parents*). This means that there are four kinds of fathers: fathers by blood, fathers of a household, fathers of the nation, and spiritual fathers. Fathers of blood are biological fathers, whereas household fathers could be a grandfather that oversees their whole family. Fathers of a nation are those who 'parent' a nation via the state. And a spiritual father is a pastor who parents people via the Word.



Stay in Your Lane!!

While it is true that all authority derives its power from parents, tragically, things break down in this sinful world.

- 1) Sometimes parents yield their authority to the state or even the church. They shirk their responsibilities – they let teachers and church workers parent their kids.
- 2) Sometimes the state believes that they have ultimate authority over children – they fail to see that their parental authority is derived from parents.
- 3) Other times pastors, teachers, and law enforcement will rightly discipline a youth or citizen, only to find that parents will fight their actions. Instead of saying, 'thank you,' families may fight schools, police, and judges for disciplining correctly.
- 4) Ultimately, all authority flows out of God for good order. It is applied to the spheres of the state, church, and family. Furthermore, tyranny creates competition to 'control' people; whereas, proper discipline can be done by all parties involved for the benefit of good order that benefits everyone.

The curse of tyranny and anarchy!!!

Authority is a gift, as stated in the 4th Commandment. The two ditches of Authority, though, are Anarchy and Authoritarianism. Those who rebel against good Authority in the pursuit of so-called freedom create hellish Anarchy. Those who pervert good Authority in the pursuit of a so-called utopic state, create ungodly Authoritarianism. Mark this: both the Anarchist and Authoritarian are equally dangerous and damning to society. Both must be resisted with diligence and condemnation, for they reject the Lord's gift of Authority, as expressed in the 4th Commandment