

Theology Simply Explained — WSC64 (1) “Honor and Duty from All to All in God's Economy”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 64—especially explaining how God's design of levels of authority calls every one of us to honor every other person, and lays upon us a duty to each of them.

WSC64: What is required in the fifth commandment? *The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors or equals.*

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Shorter. Catechism. Question this week. Is number 64. What is required in the fifth commandment? The answer is the fifth commandment requires the preserving the owner and performing the duties. Belonging to everyone and there's several places and relations. As superiors inferiors are equals. It's a very briefly. We see that.

Just as with god, we must obey Him because we love him. And that is the proper honor for god. To love the lord, your god, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And if you love him, To obey his commandments. And This is one of the easiest ways to identify the essence. Of legalism. Is if the obedience is not coming from love. Um, So, Legalism. Either obeys because you're trying to get something from god, which shows you're not. Depending, Upon him or legalism obeys in order to.

Um, increase its own praise or status. So you're not obeying out of a desire that he Uh, would be praised. Or. Uh, legalism actually. Obey things that god hasn't said. Uh, which starts to put us into. The place of god. But when the proper order is, Followed with god and we obey God because we love him.

Um, Then the obedience is true and the love is true. Well, honor your father and mother as we Considered last week as its place as a hinge between love the lord, your god with all your heart. So mindless strength and love your neighbor as yourself. Um, In how it flows out of our.

Response to god. And so just as Uh obedience to god must come out of love for god. The doing the duties to one another. Must come out of a regard for one another. And there's a recognition then. That god has given people. Uh, different places. That he has set up authority.

Within the home, within the marriage and the family. Um, husband. Over his wife, and Father and mother. Over their children. Notice that the identification of places. And the very the, the variation, the diversity of places is indicated, even in the language of the commandment brief as it is because it says, honor, your father and Your mother.

And so there's authority in the home. There's There is civil authority. In the society. This, of course comes as As man multiplies and got himself established as it in. The civil society of israel as a constitutes them, a nation. But it already Exists before that. Um, There is. A society as it were in heaven.

Kings and armies and and ranks angels are Um, Our coordinated into hosts. Which is a military term. And you remember the apostle in first corinthians 11. Uh, with a particular concern for angels, when he's talking about authority and the lord jesus. And different passages like Romans 13 and First, computer two. For instance. I remind us that several authorities established by God and then of course, there's Authority also in the church and so people have different places in the home and in the the civil society and in The state.

Uh, and or the nation. And in the church, And then there are particular relations. Uh, especially this one is. Uh, within the family. Uh, but there are particular relations that establish Some of that authority. Or. Well, or submission to authority. And so, there's The preserving the honor and performing the duties.

And this is reminding us that even those who are Uh, beneath Have an honor if god has has established. An authority. It is not for the harm. Of the one who is placed underneath the apostle recognizes this with his own authority as he writes to the Corinthians. And he talks about the authority that god has given him for building up and not for destroying he recognizes.

That there is honor. There's the benefit of the one who was underneath, this is not the way that the flash and therefore, this, the sinful and fallen world thinks and jesus. Points that out with respect to the church and with respect to how his disciples are to think about authority.

Uh, that those who are in authority among the nations lorded over them, but he reminds them that he who is a perfect example of the, keeping of all of the commandments shows the, his keeping of the fifth. Commandment by coming, not relinquishing his authority, but using his authority for the good of those who are underneath him.

And so he declares about himself. I am among you as one who serves. And this, of course, is Directly stated upon the pattern of christ and how husbands relate to their wives. Husbands love your wives as christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. And so there's a preserving of the honor.

And doing of the duty in the ruling as well as in the being ruled. And so we start to see that. From some of the examples and we could give more from the scripture. But that is Uh, what? For summarized in this belonging to everyone in their several places and relations as superiors and fears are equals every single one.

Has an honor that is due to them, a recognition of god's image in them. A recognition of god's purpose of the design, Of his, in the design for his authority, his purpose of good towards them. Every single one, Has an honor and a duty. That is. Appointed uh, for them.

Uh, for which these things are important for, which the authority structure is appointed. Um, in Christ, of course, becoming the great example of this. Who although he did not consider a quality with god something to be grasped. Humbled himself to take the form of a bond slave and being found in appearance as a man, Um, He humbled himself to death.

And even the death to the point of death and even the death of the cross. And it's on the basis of that. That the apostle says have that mind in you. That was in christ jesus. And don't do things. Out of pride. Or selfish ambition. Prefer others to yourself.

Um, so even when you are in the superior position, That doesn't mean that you are. To superiorly value yourself. Uh, superior and inferior here. Uh, are positional words not value. Words. Uh, so those who are above those, who are below and those who are on the same level, those who are In authority.

Uh, over others, those who are Um, under authority. And those who have equal. Authority. Um, Our current use of the word superior, or inferior. Uh, is mostly value judgment. Um, Uh, so be careful that you don't let your mind your heart be. Uh colored by that current use of the word as you think of levels of authority and god assigning them Um, And even.

Um,

And god assigning them. Uh, so that we see that it's out of valuing. Those who he puts on the lower level that he gives the position of the higher level. This whole help you very much in a culture that is confused. Especially Um, but about Women and different places in, which are different cases in which They ought not and in many cases in which they are forbidden.

Uh, from having Um, Having authority being put into positions. Of authority and realizing that this is Uh, this is not a value judgment that they are put in the beneath position. Women being assigned to the beneath position is not an assignment of lower value. Uh, the position is is created for their value. Because of their value. And so you have this even from the creation of woman in Genesis 2. Atoms. Position of headship and authority and provision and so forth.

Uh, Comes to him in exactly. The same sequence of events. Through which you concludes. The woman alone from all creation. Is equal to him. In the image of god, and In her value. And yet, he does not decline to call her. Um, Woman. And, To. Provide for her and take the god assigned position of leadership.

That god Produced and ordained even in the border in which he created them, and gave him the instructions before she Before he created her. So that, um, Uh, so that Um, He would have to be her teacher. Of the instructions that were given in chapter 2 and so forth.

But also, Just doing the math on it. If anything she seems to be Um, Uh, slightly more Uh, Not more valuable, but god, underlines her equal value. Uh, by making her out of better material. He's made of at a dirt. At least she's made out of an image bearer.

And then the rest of us get to be made out of image bears too. Because Whereas the woman came from the man initially ever since, then the men have all come from the women. Uh, as the apostle also, Points out in the way that god has done things, it's very important that you read that superiors in fears or equals.

Uh, Having to do with. Position or assignment from god for the sake of His own honor, god's own honor. In the way. We honor. Um, his image and others. And the position that he has put them in. In order to do good from the position that they are in.