

“God is Great, Beer is Good, &  
People Are Crazy”:  
The Ten Commandments

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Grad & Career Spring '11

# Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

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The Fifth Commandment

# Skepticism of Authority

“My idea is that every specific body strives to become master over all space and to extend its force (--its will to power:) and to thrust back all that resists its extension. But it continually encounters similar efforts on the part of other bodies and ends by coming to an arrangement ("union") with those of them that are sufficiently related to it: thus they then conspire together for power. And the process goes on—”

– Friedrich Nietzsche. *Will to Power*

# The Fifth Commandment

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. –  
Exodus 20:12

# “Father & Mother” as Authority Figures

- <sup>8</sup> “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. – Genesis 45:8 (*ruler as father*)
- <sup>13</sup> Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed!’” – 2 Kings 5:13 (*military chief as father*)
- <sup>12</sup> Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw [Elijah] no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two. – 2 Kings 2:12 (*prophet as father*)
- <sup>15</sup> Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. – 1 Cor 4:15 (*church leaders as fathers*)
- <sup>1</sup> Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. – 1 Timothy 5:1 (*older men as fathers*)

# Ephesians on Hierarchy & Equality

- Wives & Husbands

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

# Ephesians on Hierarchy & Equality

- Children & Parents

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

# Ephesians on Hierarchy & Equality

- Slaves & Masters

<sup>5</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

<sup>9</sup> And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. - Ephesians 5:21-6:9

Honor. Rule Benevolently. Dignify.

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Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

# Honor. Rule Benevolently. Dignify.

As humans we are people who live:

- Under authority
- With authority
- As equals

In that context of life, the fifth commandment calls us to:

- HONOR those whose authority we are under
- RULE BENEVOLENTLY those under our authority
- DIGNIFY those who are our equals

# Honor. Rule Benevolently. Dignify.

“This is the basic principle of government in Scripture. It rejects both egalitarianism and authoritarianism. It does not regard authority as demeaning, as in some feminist thought, but as a blessing. It does not claim that everybody is the same, in gifts or status. But neither does it allow authority to become oppression.” - John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*.

Human relationships reflect the Divine relationships. The Trinity contains in itself authority, submission, & equality – Society contains the same.

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Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

I want to know  
that I can follow,  
that I can lead,  
& that I can come alongside.

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Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

Honor:  
reverence,  
submission,  
gratitude

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Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

Rule benevolently:  
lovingly, sacrificially,  
tenderly, protectively

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Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

Dignify:  
giving worth,  
delighting in gifts,  
rejoicing in advancement.

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Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

Jesus Christ:  
Suffering Servant,  
King of Kings,  
Brother & Friend.

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Desire for Hierarchy & Equality

# Jesus as Suffering Servant

- <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.
- <sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.
- <sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.
- <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,
- ...because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors. - Isaiah 53:7-10,12

# Jesus as Suffering Servant

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- Philippians 2:5-8

# Jesus as King of Kings

<sup>14</sup> They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. – Revelation 17:14

# Jesus as Brother & Friend

<sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

- Hebrews 2:11

