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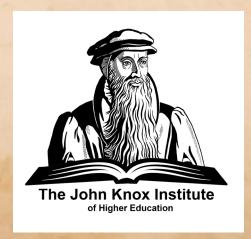
by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

# Adult Study Guide

for Lecture #37

The Ten Commandments: Love Within Our Relationships

Catechism Questions 63, 64, 65, 66



#### John Knox Institute of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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## **ADULT STUDY GUIDE**

for Lecture #37
The Ten Commandments:
Love Within Our Relationships

#### **Memorization**

**Question 63:** *Which is the fifth commandment?* 

**Answer:** The fifth commandment is, "Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

**Question 64:** What is required in the fifth commandment?

**Answer:** The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honour, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

**Question 65:** What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

**Answer:** The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing any thing against, the honour and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.

**Question 66:** What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

**Answer:** The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

#### Lecture Structure

- 1. Introduction.
- 2. Divinely-ordered relationships.
- 3. Honoring thee relationships.
- 4. Encouragement for the obedient.
- 5. Applications.

#### Literal Study

1. Define these words as they are used in this lecture:
a) Honor (or honour)
b) Superior
c) Inferior
2. What does the word "superior" mean as it is used in this lecture?
3. What does the word "inferior" mean as it is used in this lecture?
4. Summarize the main teachings from the answers to Questions 63 through 66.
<u>Lecture Checkup</u>
1. How can we see that God is the one who has ordered and established all our relationships?
2. What are the three places and relations of people, as shown in the Catechism? Give examples of each.

3. Why should we be careful to preserve the honor due to each person in their place or relation?
4. Should we think that the place or relation of "inferior" is demeaning or poor? Explain.
5. What duties do we have towards those who are our superiors?
6. What duties do we have towards those who are our inferiors?
7. What duties do we have towards those who are our equals?
8. What is the fundamental duty that we have towards all three of these places and relations?
9. Does this doctrine mean that we should blindly obey our superiors in everything? Explain your answer.

10. What encouragement has God given us for obeying the fifth commandment? What is the natural component of this promise? What is the spiritual aspect of this promise?
Further Studies  1. In the breaking of this commandment, in what ways do children sin against their parents? How do parents sin against their children?
2. In the breaking this commandment, in what ways do wives sin against their husbands, and husbands against their wives?
3. In the breaking of this commandment, how do people sin against their ministers? How do ministers sin against the people of their congregation?
4. In the braking of this commandment, in what ways to civil magistrates sin against their subjects? How to civil people sin against civil magistrates?
5. Do all those, then, that honor their parents live long and prosper on the earth? Expain.

#### **Practical Application**

1. Identify some of the relationships God has placed in your life. List them in categories of superiors, inferiors, and equals. What are your responsibilities toward each of these people? Does this lecture help you in giving honor to all people you know?
2. Examine yourself to see your own sins against this commandment, such as dishonoring your superiors, unlovingly treating inferiors, or being unkind to your equals. Confess your sins and repent of this, and ask the Lord for grace and help to walk more faithfully in love towards all those whom God has placed in your life.

#### **Project Ideas**

Read and study *The Westminster Larger Catechism*, Questions 127 to 132. This should give you a greater depth of understanding about our duties towards others in all kinds of relationships.