

### **TEACHING GOAL**

To study Christian education as an application of the fifth commandment.

### **DOCTRINAL STANDARDS**

- Q. What is required in the fifth commandment?
- A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.
- Q. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?
- A. The fifth commandment forbids the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in their several places and relations.

S.C. 64-65, L.C. 124-132, W.C. of F. XIX, Savoy 19, Young 92

### **SCRIPTURAL BASIS**

**Study Passage:** Psalm 78

**Support Passages:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 119:97-104; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 7:6-12; Ephesians 6:1-4; II Timothy 3:12-17

### **BIBLE STORY**

I Samuel 2:12-17, 22-36, 3:12-13; Eli raises his children improperly.

### **MEMORY ASSIGNMENT**

""Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you." (Matthew 7:6, ESV)

### **APPLICATION**

The people of God have a special duty to train up their children in the way they should go. That our children not be like the sons of Ephraim who turned back in the day of battle we must be especially diligent in this matter.

## SUMMARY

As we have learned, the fifth commandment applies to a wide range of relationships that exist between superiors, equals and inferiors. Incidentally, this terminology only refers to one's social position, for example, father to son or employer to employee. It does not refer to one's spiritual position, for, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."<sup>1</sup> Because the subject is so large we shall undertake the study of only two applications albeit very important ones. In this lesson we shall deal with Christian Education and the next lesson will undertake the study of the church state relationship.

In his commentary on the fifth commandment, Paul writes, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."<sup>2</sup> Having applied the commandment to the child - parent relationship, the apostle proceeds to give attention to the duty the parent has to the child, namely, that of instruction. But does this refer to more than Sunday school or family devotions? Indeed it does! If any part of the daily instruction received by our children confuses them with regard to the True and Living God, or encourages them toward humanism or evil then that part of their education does not qualify as the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

In fact, all that we come to know is to be filtered through the precepts of the Lord according to the Bible, where we read, "Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way."<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, it is abundantly clear that we are to engage in daily Christian education. Moses writes concerning the sum total of God's Law, "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."<sup>4</sup> The Hebrew word translated "diligently" means to whet or sharpen. Therefore we are to teach God's precepts to our children trenchantly or incisively and we are to do it on a daily basis. The verse refers to activities that are done on a daily basis such as sitting in the house, lying down, and rising up.

If we, by reason of employment among other things, cannot teach our children on a daily basis, then we must use other means to teach them, including among other means, homeschooling or private Christian schools or supplemental Christian education. We cannot expect the ungodly to teach God's precepts to our children. Furthermore those who teach in our place should be able to relate all areas of knowledge to the precepts of God else it cannot be said that through the precepts of God we get understanding.

Now the scriptures speak of the ungodly in very strong terms. Jesus, in

fact, likens them to pigs or dogs.<sup>5</sup> In the non-literal sense these are un-baptized and therefore impure people. Paul uses the word *dogs* in this sense in another passage, "Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh."<sup>6</sup> Jesus would not have us give our children (pearls) to ungodly teachers. "Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?"<sup>7</sup> Many children cry out to us for answers and godly instruction but all too often we give stones and snakes to them. We instruct them with the humanism of government education.

The fathers of Israel were to teach the testimony in Jacob and the law in Israel to their children. "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God."<sup>8</sup> They miserably failed in this duty. We read that Ephraim turned back in the day of battle because they were not properly taught. Eli, too, was culpable and was punished. "And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them."<sup>9</sup>

One of our greatest responsibilities as parents is to bring up our children to know and love the Lord. May God grant us the grace, resources and spiritual strength to provide daily Christian education for our children.

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<sup>1</sup> Galatians 3:28, ESV

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 6:4, ESV

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 119:104, ESV

<sup>4</sup> Deuteronomy 6:7, ESV

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 7:6

<sup>6</sup> Philippians 3:2, ESV

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 7:9-10, ESV

<sup>8</sup> Psalm 78:5-8, ESV

<sup>9</sup> I Samuel 3:13, ESV