

A HERITAGE OF TRUTH

THEME SEVEN: God's Law

Truth #4

QUESTION

What are the last six of the Ten Commandments?

ANSWER

5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

SUGGESTED HYMN

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

FURTHER STUDY

The Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Commandments (Exodus 20:12-14)
The fifth commandment (v. 12) is the first that relates directly to our relationship with other people. We are called to love our neighbor by honoring our parents. *To honor* means to give weight to something or to esteem something as valuable. The Lord calls all of us—children in the home and adults out of the home—to treat their parents with respect, since the God who gave this command is the same God who gave us our parents. The sixth commandment (v. 13) teaches us to love our neighbor by valuing his life. The sin of murder rises from a heart of hatred, an attitude that Christ condemns and treats as equivalent to murder itself

(Matthew 5:21-22). Scripture offers two reasons for this command: life is a gift from God (John 5:26; Acts 3:15; 1 Timothy 6:13) and humanity bears the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6). The seventh commandment (v. 14) teaches us to love our neighbor by maintaining moral purity. Humanity without God treats sexual immorality as though it were the quintessence of love—and regards sex within His boundaries as puritanical, boring, and unfulfilling. Our God teaches us, however, the exact opposite: sexual relations are an expression of love only in keeping with His good design.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is it hard for us to esteem our parents as valuable? (Parents, as you discuss this with your children, answer this question yourself as it relates to your parents. If you have not honored your parents recently, take time to acknowledge your sin and confess it to the Lord.) What hope do we have from the life of Christ that we can honor our parents (cf. Luke 2:41-52)? How does His obedience in your place make your standing before God the Father unchanging?
- What Scripture passages help us understand that the sixth commandment does not include capital punishment? eating meat? war? killing in self-defense?
- Parents, if you have a pre-teen or teenager, this week's truth can open great opportunities for conversation about the nature of sex as God designed it. What is God's verdict on the world's notion that sex within God's boundaries is puritanical, boring, and unfulfilling (Proverbs 5:15-19)? How do Christ's words intensify the meaning of the seventh commandment (Matthew 5:27-30)? Are there any ways that you are seeking illicit sexual fulfillment? Take time to repent of the waywardness of your fallen heart and ask God for grace to follow Him.

A Heritage of Truth is a set of 120 studies designed to assist our entire congregation—and our families in particular—to explore the ways and works of God so that they grow up into Christ, worship God and enjoy Him forever. Questions and answers are provided by Kids4Truth (www.kids4truth.org).