

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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May 2017

The Fourth Commandment

*Honor your father and your mother,
that it may be well with you,
and that you may live long on the earth.*

Catechism Explanation

*We should fear and love God, so that we do
not despise our parents and superiors, nor
provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey,
love, and esteem them.*

As our Creator and Ruler, God is the Authority over all people. He gives us life and all that is good for our body and soul. He deserves our highest honor and worship. Yet in many ways, God rules and provides for us indirectly – through His earthly representatives in the home, in the church, and in society.

God Himself could appear visibly in our homes, caring for children, feeding them, teaching them, and raising them with love and discipline for their good. Instead, He gives the authority and responsibility to fathers and mothers to provide for their children's physical needs (1 Timothy 5:8); as well as spiritual needs, by bringing them up in His Word (Ephesians 6:4). He commands children to honor their parents as those He gives to care for them in body and soul.

In his *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther wrote: "Thus He distinguishes father and mother above all other persons on earth, and places them next to Himself. For it is a much greater thing to honor than to love. Honor includes not only love but also deference, humility, and modesty, directed (so to speak) toward a majesty hidden within them. It requires us not only to address them affectionately and reverently, but above all to show by our actions, both of heart and the body, that we respect them very highly and that next to God we give them the very highest place."

Ephesians 6:3-4 reminds us that this is the first commandment with promise: *"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."* How often, when a child learns to honor God-given authority, it brings a better, fuller life. On the other hand, Proverbs 30:17 warns: *"The eye that mocks his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it."*

As in the home, also in government God Himself could appear visibly on a throne, in a judge's seat, or in a police car, keeping law and order in society. But He appoints representatives. Romans 13:1 says: *"there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."* He wants us to honor government leaders as those He gives to rule for our physical good. They bear the sword in order to protect the innocent and punish the guilty (vs. 4).

Again, when it comes to His Church, our living Lord Himself could appear visibly, preaching His Word and administering His Sacraments. But He calls and sends ministers of the Word to serve His people's spiritual needs; such as pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11). He calls us to submit to those whom He gives responsibility to watch over our souls (Hebrews 13:7).

There is one reason for disobedience to authorities. If parents or any other superior goes beyond God-given authority, demanding that we go against His Word, then we respond as the apostles did to the authorities: *"We ought to obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29).

God gives us His Commandments because He loves us and wants what is best for us in body and soul. But the greatest way He has shown His love to us is by sending His Son as our Savior. As sinners, we have often dishonored and disobeyed parents and others in authority. We have broken His holy Law and deserve His punishment. But in order to save us, this time God Himself did come visibly into the world to be our Representative. He lived under His own Law, to fulfill it all for us. He who gives parents and superiors, put Himself under the authority of earthly parents. Jesus perfectly honored and obeyed His father and mother (Luke 2:51) and others in authority; above all honoring His heavenly Father. Then the innocent Son went to the cross as our Representative, bearing all our sin and guilt. He took all our punishment to set us free.

Now, through the gift of baptism and faith in His Son, God makes us His children. He covers us in the life of Christ (Galatians 3:26-27), counting to us the perfect obedience of His Son. *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"* (John 3:1). May His love move us to honor Him through His representatives!

Pastor Smith

FAITH

(From our Evangelical Lutheran Synod' Board for Home Missions)

I suppose you might call it *faith* if you believe in the sun, even on a cloudy day. We probably all have that kind of faith.

There are places where it might cloud over for weeks at a time. It's easy to get discouraged by the grey sky. Yet, even in cloudy weather, we know the sun is still up there. It's still providing heat and light. It's still making life possible.

What happens if our life should cloud over with troubles? What if we have to live for a while under the cover of dark disappointments?

At times like that, we might ask why such things could happen to us. We might question whether or not God is really there, whether or not He cares, whether or not He's able to help.

We can't see Him directly. But God is certainly there. He is doing His work, protecting and providing for us. He causes the sun to shine, and the earth to produce. He provides for our physical needs, making our life possible.

But even more than that, the Son of God shines in His Holy Word. This is God's answer to our *spiritual* need.

God hasn't left us in darkness, to try to figure out the answers to life all by ourselves. He hasn't left us to the wolves that prey upon our fears and needs. God has given us everything we need in Jesus, His Son.

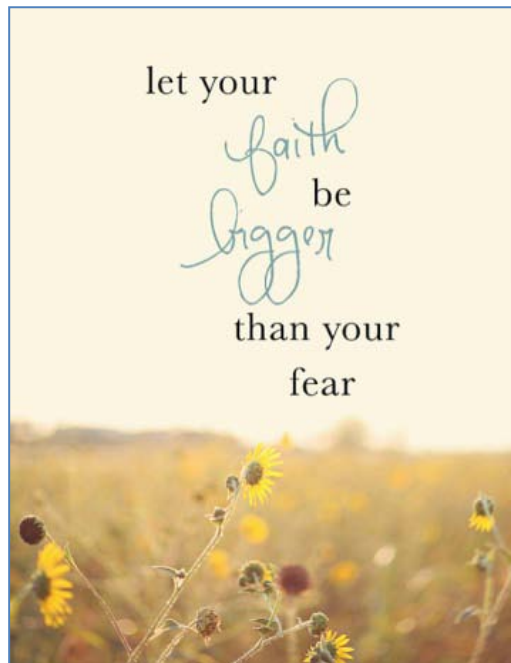
We were sinful. Jesus came from heaven to be our holiness. We were dying. Jesus came from heaven to be our life. We were lost; Jesus came from heaven and found us. He was punished

in our place on the cross, and all our sins are forgiven in Him.

So where we'd desperately try to understand ... where we'd desperately try to get life right, and find comfort against fear and guilt for the wrong we've done ... God breaks in, shows us His Son, and says: "the righteous shall live by faith," faith in Him!

That means forgiveness for sins. That means the exchange of our fate in hell, for eternal joys in heaven. That means help for cloudy days, fears and doubts.

Why not join us this Sunday? God has given us His Holy Word, that we might obtain this faith: assurance that we have a gracious God in Christ.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> <i>Wally & Adeena Klein</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gavin Eubanks</i> Jesus Cares Ministry 2:00 PM	6 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> <i>Neal & Sue Eberlein</i>
7 <i>Easter 4</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Birthday Christina Bednar</i>	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Steven Currie</i>	13 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bethany Harrington</i>
14 <i>Easter 5</i> <u>Happy Mother's Day!</u> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	15	16	17 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Pat Burks</i>	18 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jacob Klein</i>	19	20
21 <i>Easter 6</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Annual Voters' Meeting & Potluck 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Birthday Anona Ore</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Easter 7</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	29 <i>Memorial Day</i>	30	31 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> <i>Zachary & Alaina Otto</i>	<p><i>"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (John 3:1).</i></p>		

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