

Honoring Family

Lesson 27 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the Fourth Commandment and how God is the source of mutual respect within the family.
- The participants will explore how the Fourth Commandment applies to the civil authority and the Church's relationship with those authorities.

Content Summary

1. The Fourth Commandment focuses on the responsibilities and duties that family members have toward one another and is the first step in knowing how we are to act toward all people.
2. The Fourth Commandment is based on this natural love between parent and child that God has placed in the human heart.
3. The Church defines the duties of this Commandment as attitudes that lead to specific actions. The Church teaches that the attitudes children owe parents are respect, gratitude, obedience, and assistance.
4. In a similar way, God gives parents the responsibility to teach their children about God and the moral life and to make rules for their safety—even if it means telling their children things their children would rather not hear.
5. Not only must parents provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their children (those things children should be grateful for), but they must also be their children's first educators, especially when it comes to their faith life.
6. Just as children must obey their parents unless their parents' expectations are morally wrong, so must everyone obey the laws of their community. Our actions and attitudes must contribute to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom.
7. Not every law is morally right. If we have good reasons to believe a law is morally wrong, then we are obliged not to follow it. Refusing to follow immoral laws is called civil disobedience.

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