

The School of Biblical Law

Covenant and Law

Lesson Twenty-Five: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Five”

Commandment Five answers to the fifth section of the covenant model, which is continuity. Continuity reveals the future or the covenant, who the appointed heir will be, and how covenant stewardship will pass from one generation unto the next.

Commandments 1-5 (Love God)	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10 (Love thy neighbor)
No other gods	Transcendence	
No graven images	Hierarchy	
Do not take God’s Name in vain	Ethics	
Remember the Sabbath Day	Sanctions	
Honor thy Father and Mother	Continuity	

1. When asked which commandment was the greatest, Jesus responded by saying, “Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Mt.22:37-40).

Some theologians place Commandment Five under the category of loving your neighbor because, at a cursory glance, the law seems to be an action of man to his fellowman; however, this law answers to continuity and this law acknowledges God’s election for the future.

- Children are God’s inheritance. “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward” (Ps. 127:3).
- Parents are given the privilege of training and caring for God’s heirs.
- God’s will and His election advance from generation to generation for the accomplishment of His purposes on the earth.

2. Life comes prepackaged.

God’s initial gift comes to each person through his or her parents. “My flesh was made by you, and my parts joined together in my mother’s body. I will give you praise, for I am strangely and delicately formed; your works are great wonders, and of this my soul is fully conscious. My frame was not unseen by you when I was made secretly, and strangely formed in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book all my days were recorded, even those which were purposed before they had come into being. How dear are your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the number of them!” (Ps. 139:13-17 – BBE)

- Parents give DNA.
- Parents provide life-supporting fundamentals such as food, clothing, shelter, love, and relationships.
- Parents give self-realization (values systems, purpose for being, self-identity) and education and equipping (schooling, training for development of talents).

3. Each person has two sources for his or her inheritance:

- God
- Parents

God sees the length of days, knows the calling which He will place upon a life, and knows how man’s time on earth will fit into His greater cosmic scheme; then He builds into a man the potential for him to fulfill his course and finish his race. This is the God-ordained inheritance. Therefore, to honor one’s parents is ultimately to honor God for His providential choice and the fulfillment of His plan on the earth.