

The Marriage Covenant #5

(The Fifth Commandment, "Honor Thy...")

Sunday October 15, 2000

This morning we will continue our series on the marriage covenant. As you know we have taken the ten commandments which God set forth for man, that through these laws man might draw closer to the Lord. I do not believe that God set forth the Ten Commandments to be some club to beat down upon man and keep him under some form of bondage. Rather, these are ten laws that were meant to establish and maintain the relationship between God and man. Not laws in a legal sense of the word, but more like laws that govern such as we have the laws of physics, which are not meant to be used as a club to beat man down with. We also have the law of nature, the law of gravity, and the law of reproduction. These are laws and yet we don't think of them in terms of do or die.

We think of these laws more in terms of defining principles. The laws of physics, defines the boundaries and parameters for understanding physics. The law of gravity is a set of definitions that define the boundaries and parameters of gravity. And so, we have the law of nature to help us to understand nature. God gave us the law of reproduction to help us to understand the workings of seed. These are all laws which God has set forth to establish and maintain the earth and its habitat. They are indeed laws, but they have not been viewed in the same sense as has the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments were not taken as God intended them to be taken. God set them forth to govern our relationship with Him. They are for our benefit, not to be used as a club to keep us in

line, but rather to help us understand what a relationship is and how it works, and how to maintain it. In this case they were not just given that we might have a better relationship with our Heavenly Father, but they were given that we might have a the proper tools for all relationships.

The first commandment we examined was, "Thou shalt have no other". This commandment not only applies in our relationship to God but in our relationship to our spouse as well. Not only did the Lord tell us "*Thou shalt have no other God besides Him*", but He also told us that we should make no thing an object of our worship or place our affection on that which would come between Him-self and us. We found that this principle applies to the marriage covenant as well, if we are to not only establish, but build up our relationship.

The Second Commandment that the Lord God said, "*Thou shalt not worship the Lord thy God in vain*". We have abbreviated to the words "*in vain*", meaning, we should not allow our relationship to become carefree or careless in our attitude. Do not let your relationship become common to you. As we applied this commandment to the marriage covenant we found it essential to keep the marriage relationship alive and vibrant by never allowing our relationship to become old and worn out. He said "*Not in Vain*" and vain means useless, or to take it lightly.

The Third Commandment God said, ***Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*** We found that this command calls for us to make a habit of setting aside time where we do nothing. **Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words** says, "*The Word Sabbath means to cease or desist. The idea is not that of*

relaxation or refreshment, but of cessation from activity." God said, remember to keep this time, to set it apart from all other days. The word holy simply means set apart. Therefore, God is telling us to set aside a day or time where we do absolutely nothing. And we see how necessary it is in our relationship with God as well as with our Spouse. We need the time to just be together without any distractions. There is no better way for a man and woman to relight that fire between them than to just be together with nothing else to do, than just work on their relationship.

This morning we shall continue with our examination of the Marriage Covenant in Light of the Ten Commandments. We shall turn to **EXODUS 20:12** and read the Fifth Commandment which God gave to man. We read it as thus: ¶ *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

Now the first thing that might come to your mind is how does this commandment have to do with our relationship to God, and how does it have to do with a husband and wife? And yet I will tell you that this fifth commandment is one of the most important commandments of all because without it, no relationship could ever begin. This commandment is a very important principle in beginning your search for a husband or wife. This commandment reflects what is inside of the person. Jesus told us this in...

MATTHEW 15:3 *But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother* (Wuest *be placing a correct evaluation upon your father and mother and be according them the reverence and veneration due them*)

and, He that curseth father or mother, (he that calls down curses upon father and mother) let him die the death (let him come to his end by death).. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to [his] father or [his] mother, [It is] a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; (It is a gift dedicated to God, whatever it may be by means of which you might derive help from me, he will positively not pay due reverence and respect to his father and his mother.) 6 And honour not his father or his mother, [he shall be free]. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. 7 [Ye] hypocrites, (you are actors on the stage of life playing a role of that which you are not), well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, (This people places a correct evaluation of Me with their lips,) and honoureth me with [their] lips; (and with lip service accords me all the due reverence and veneration), but their heart is far from me. but their heart holds back at a great distance from me.) 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men. 10 ¶ And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: (Now I want you to notice what Jesus sums up this conversation by saying, He says, 11 It is not that which goeth into the mouth that defiles a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defiles a man.

And we follow up with another saying which Jesus left us, He said, **LUKE 6:44** *For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. 46*

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Therefore, when we speak of honoring our father and mother we are looking right into the heart and soul of the son or daughter itself. That is why if you want to make sure you marry someone who will always show you respect and will honor you in the marriage, just watch how they treat their parents. You watch a young man and how he treats his mother and you will know how he will treat his wife. And you young men, pay close attention to how she treats her father, because that is the way she will treat her husband, and don't be fooled by her looks. Rather, but watch her, and observe what kind of respect and honor that she gives to her father and you will see how she will treat you.

Notice, in **MATTHEW 15:3** Jesus quoted his Father saying, *For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother* Now, the word honor that Jesus used is the Greek word, **timao** {tim-ah'-o} and it means 1) to estimate, to fix a value for something belonging to one's self 2) to honour, to have in honour, to revere, venerate; to honour with many honours.. That is why the Wuest translation says, *(be placing a correct evaluation upon your father and mother and be according them the reverence and veneration due them).*

Therefore we are looking at this thought of honor. This is the value we set on something, and more specifically the value we set on our parents. Therefore you must watch and see what value they place on their parents, because that will tell you the value they will place in their marriage partner.

We see this same Greek word used in **MATTHEW 27:9** as the word value. *Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;*

The Apostle Paul said, **EPHESIANS 6:1 ¶** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 **Honor** thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

Notice Paul said, honor your parents which means to respect, value and venerate your parents, for this is the first commandment with a promise or blessing that will accompany it. And that blessing says, have the right respect and honor for your parents and it will be well with you. God's blessings will come upon you and overtake you.

In **JOHN 8:49b** Jesus Says, *I honour my Father.*

And again in **JOHN 12:26** He says, *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honour.*

Jesus said, "*do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*" To honor your parents will not only bring forth the blessings of God upon you, but your children will also honor you. You reap what you sow. You give your parents fits, and you will receive them yourself one day. In the following story we will hear how brother

Branham honored his own father even though his father had been a drunk for most of his life.

LIFE STORY 52-0720A E-15 *My dad did drink, but I don't care what he done, he's still my daddy.*

And let me stop here for a moment and say this, "you can't change who you are. Nor can you change the fact of who your parents are. Nor can I change the fact of who my children are. Your DNA came from your parents, which means your entire makeup came forth from them. Therefore no matter how much you may wish otherwise, they're a part of you in such a way that you could never get rid of the fact. Your parents are implanted in every fiber of your being, every cell in your body, and you owe your entire existence to the fact that they came together in an act of love.

LIFE STORY 52-0720A E-15 *And let me tell you something young folks, this afternoon. Don't you never get little enough to call your mother and dad "the old man and woman." You don't never do that, no matter what they are. No matter what they are; you respect them as your dad and mother. You'll never know what, how you love them, till you hear the ... squeaking of a casket going out, and knowing that's the last of it. It won't be the "old man and woman" then.*

E-16 *A lot of times they're right, when you think they're wrong. Always, "Honor thy father and mother, which may lengthen the days upon the earth, the Lord thy God giveth thee." That's the first commandment with promise. Be kind to your mother and dad. I remember my daddy died. He was just beginning to gray a little bit at the temples. When he laid there in the casket, and I*

picked up his head, which had died right on my arms... And I picked up his head and his locks of hair fall down, I thought, "Oh, dad." I looked at his hand. He had had his finger cut off there in the shredder one day. I thought of all the heartaches that I'd caused him. It wasn't "the old man," that was my daddy. I don't care who else, what they thought about him; he was still my dad. And I loved him. And I love him today.

I had the privilege of leading him to Christ. Now... And my mother, also. My mother is a living. She's supposed to arrive here this afternoon. And I trust that she will get here.

E-17 *Now, back in those days I remember some of the little things, just for details. I remember one thing that out-stood in them days, was, every Saturday night go to town to get the groceries. Did you ever have to do that, go in on a Saturday night and get the food for the week? We lived in the country, and I'd work hard all week. I got a dime, when I was a great big boy, twelve, fourteen years old. I got ten cents. Dad said, "Don't spent it all in one place: ten cents." Billy says, "Daddy, you got five dollars you can let me have?" How things have changed, certainly have.*

So we are looking at honor, and as I said, you watch how that boy treats his mother and you watch how that girl treats her father and that is the way they will treat their spouse.

And if we believe that these Ten Commandments were more than just ten laws to live by, and we believe that they are actually a set of laws which govern all relationships: first our relationship between God and man, and next the relationship between husband and wife. Then we should ensure in our marriage that there will be honor between both parties. Honor, which means to hold

in high esteem. It means to value the relationship, and especially the other half of that relationship.

How many times I have heard men speak evil of their wives, calling them the old lady. *"Let's go to the pool hall boys, the old ladies not home tonight."* I can't understand people who treat the other disrespectfully like that. Its no wonder the divorce rate in America is so high. My own brother is going through a divorce, for this very same reason. His wife has never shown him the proper respect. I can remember as long as I have known her she has called by brother Turkey. He retired from the Marine Core as a Major. He was an officer for 20 years and as an office he was shown respect by his fellow officers and the majority of men and women in the service, would solute him which is a way of paying tribute to his rank. That's the one thing I like about the military, it does teach a young man and woman how to show respect. Though they may or may not like an officer, yet they must show respect. It's part of the military culture. You do it or else. And oh, how different things would be today in our society if people had held onto this law of respect.

To show you how important this law of respect is, brother Branham said, **QA HEBREWS PART 3 57-1006 331-768** *What is it? Our nation has come so little until they've even taken the jobs away from the men, and put women out here in these places, till ninety percent of them, nearly, are prostitutes. And talk about man being gone, sure, it's because they got women out there in their jobs. And they got so lowdown till they put women as peace officers on the street. That's a disgrace to any nation. Yes, sir. What are you going to do about it? "What do you do about it, Brother Branham?" I have to respect it; I'm an American citizen. I do what the big boss says do.*

*If I ever... If α-if a family ever loses its respect for the family (the children lose the respect to the parents), that family's tore to pieces. If a--if a **church ever loses respect of its pastor, why it-it-it--that church is gone.** And if a nation ever loses their respect of the Supreme Court and its decisions, that nation is gone to pieces. That's exactly right. We've got to respect those things, because they're the big boss. See? But it isn't right in the beginning. Absolutely.*

RESPECTS 61-1015E 165 *If you can't respect the man, respect the office he holds in God. That's exactly right (See?); respect him. If a minister comes up, your pastor, always respect him. I've heard congregations talk about their pastor, how just talk about him, run him down, ridicule him. How is that pastor ever going to do anything for you? He can't do it. You--you don't--you don't re... I don't say this church, but I mean churches I have seen, that if you... You've got to love your pastor. You've got to know that he's a human being, but yet God has made him His pastor. The Holy Ghost has made him overseer; then you've got to respect him in that manner. And no matter what the pastor's done, if you respect him in your heart as God's servant, God will respect you for doing it. "He that--he that receiveth Me, receiveth Him that sent Me," Jesus said. "He that don't receive Me, can't receive Him."*

Now, can you imagine coming home everyday from an atmosphere of respect and honor and walking in the door and receiving disrespect? Then to have your children fed the same disrespect until they begin to do the same? I can hardly blame a man that would walk out on that.

And what marriage can hold together without honor and respect between husband and wife.

Paul gave us the prescription how we can apply this golden rule in every aspect of our life. He said, **COLOSSIANS 3:17** *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. 18 ¶ Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.* Notice here, Paul is saying, "as long as what he is asking you to do does not go contrary to The Word of God, then submit to it. Be subject to it, yield to it for this is right in the Lord. This is a show of respect, and it is right in the eyes of the Lord.

But today the woman will not do this. There is a spirit on the women today, especially here in America. Don't forget, we are still living in Laodicea, the age of peoples rights, and honor and respect was thrown out the door a long time ago. Women want to have it their way. And it has worked it's way down among the children until they won't obey like they are commanded by God to do. I hope you women listen up and you children better take heed. When your husband tells you something needs to be done and you don't do it, you will have to answer to God one day for that. He shouldn't have to ask you over and over and over again. As long as what he is asking does not conflict with God's Word in any way, what he asks you is God's command to you. And you children, when you disobey your father and mother, you are disobeying God. In the old testament God commanded the parents to take a child who was disobedient and stone them. For their rebellion is worse than witch craft in the eyes of God.

Then Paul continues by saying, *19 Husbands, love [your] wives, and be not bitter against them.* Now, Paul would not have commanded husbands

to be not bitter against them if there wasn't a propensity for men to become bitter. Women do have a tendency to nag. Men do not nag. The nag is a female horse. And men might complain, but to nag is to repeat over and over and over again like a constant drip from a faucet that can't be fixed.

Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived said, **PROVERBS 21:9 ¶** *[It is] better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.*

PROVERBS 21:19 ¶ *[It is] better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.*

So many women just drive their husbands away from them. How? By their constant nagging all the time.

You know what God says for his description of a contentious woman? **PROVERBS 27:15 ¶** *A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.* In other words, they just won't let up. Just nag, nag, nag, nag, nag, nag, drip, drip, drip, drip, drip.

Look, it does not matter whether you are right or wrong, it is the nagging that God said makes you a contentious woman. And that is Thus saith God's Holy Word. So, if you want to argue with that, then argue with God? But as Paul said, "***Who are you that replieth against God?***" I think the 20th century translation of that should be, "***Who do you think you are that would be so stupid as to argue with God.***" And yet they continue to do so even knowing what God says against it.

If the shoe fits, where it. If God says, *A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike* He means what He said. Then if your nagging is continuous, you are a contentious woman. Not because I say so, but because God says so.

But the thing of it is, that you men when you have a wife that is contentious, you need to be little messiettes, you need to be the saviour of your house, and create an atmopsphere that will help the little wife to come out from that demonic influence.

EXPLAINING HEALING AND JAIRUS 54-0216 E-35 *And we ought to get ourself in that kind of an atmosphere. Create... Each one of you is a creator. Did you know that? Each one of you people that's borned again is a creator. We must create an atmosphere as I said the other night. Sometimes when I'm in the home, and the wife is all--the people in and out, and just going all the time... I'd go in, and wife standing in there wiping her eyes crying, she said, "Bill, the children hasn't even had a bite to eat today; the house is packed and jammed." There little Sarah, my little two year old girl setting in there, she's crying. Rebekah's come in from school. Why? My wife, all nervous, has got that atmosphere there. See? That's what it is. Well, I don't tell her. She's not here tonight, so she don't know it. So I go and I say, "Well, I tell you, honey; that's true." I said, "Oh, I have to come home once in a while, you know." But I say, "Sweetheart," you know to kindly get her quietened. Then I, in my heart, I say, "Lord, I am giving my love of God into my wife. Now, Lord, You help me, now here, and I want Your Spirit. Now, Satan would get us all confused, but I-I want You to help me." And I say, "Say, dear, I'll--I'll help you wash the*

dishes." And I--I get on there, and I say, "You just start with the children like say something there." And I'm standing there all the time praying, "Now, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit; I know it's quieting them right now. And I'm sending it in this home, my home, in the Name of Your Son Jesus." The first thing you know, the wife says, "I'll..." She'd be interested in talking about something. The baby's got blocks a playing in there, going on. It's all over. See, see?

E-36 It's the atmosphere. You got to get away from it. See? From that old confusion, "Oh, am I going to be..." You're scared. That what's the matter. You'll be frying your meat of a morning for breakfast, and--and the first thing you know, you're filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, I'm going to shock you a little bit. You don't mind, do you? All right. For instance, the meat's a frying, and all at once the grease pops out on your hand. Now, if you'll just shake it off and go on frying meat, it wouldn't bother you. Now, I know you didn't get that just right. Look. The first thing, "Oh, where the Ungantene?" Something... You see, grab you hand. See, see? It scares you to death. That's what does it. It's fear. Peter walking on the water. He was walking all right, till he seen the waves contrary and he got scared. Jesus said, "Why'd you fear?" That's what's the matter with the Holy Ghost people today. They've got a lot afraid...

E-37 The devil's just trying to scare you out of something. He's trying to put something off somewhere else, say, "Some of these days you'll be this." You are now. Now, we're sons of God. Now, we're seated together in heavenly places. Now, we have all powers in heavens and the earth. See? Now, we have it. Not in the millennium, we won't need it then. We got it now. We're... Right now we are the sons of God. "It

does not appear what we shall be, but we know we'll be like Him." What you are here is a reflection of what you are somewhere else. "Those who He called, He justifies." Is that right? "Those who He justified, He has glorified." Already in the Presence of the Father, we have a glorified body. Whew! Wasn't that deep? All right. We'll find out whether it's right or not. "If this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting." Is that right? That's right. So right now, and what we are there, is a reflection. Here, what we are here, is a reflection of what we are somewhere else. So if your deeds are evil, you know where it comes from. You know where your other body's a waiting.

E-38 Now, you say about that grease on the hand. Well, one day Paul... The Lord told Paul he had to go down and appear before Caesar, and got shipwrecked out there. And the Lord give him a vision, told him what was going to happen. Fourteen days and nights, no stars, moon, or nothing, didn't worried Paul, 'cause he knowed what the Lord said. He said, "I saw a vision last night. A man stood by me, and told me that I was going to--be taken before Caesar." And said, "I seen in a vision, the ship was going to be wrecked on a certain island." But said, "There ain't going be nobody's life lost." Said, "The Lord done told me so." Said, "We're going to be of a good courage." I can see that little Jew shaking his hands, and a screaming to the top of his voice. The ship just pitching as hard as it ever did. Didn't bother him; he knowed what the Lord said. You see? So when they got on the shore, there was a big storm been on there, and the rain, cold. Paul was picking up some sticks and he--he throwed some in the fire, and a big dangerous

snake grabbed him right through the hand. Why, it never scared Paul. He looked at it like that, so full of the Holy Ghost, his whole inner body just charged with the power of God; he looked at it, and shook it off in the fire, and said, "I've got to go before Caesar. What you bothering me about," like that and went walking on. It didn't bother him. See? Didn't scare him a bit.

COLOSSIANS 3: 20 *Children, obey [your] parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.* He didn't say obey your parents once in a while, he said in all things. A-L-L, ALL things. Not just when you feel like it, but in ALL, everything they ask of you, obey it. Your life is not your own until you are married and living on your own. As long as you are living under their roof they own you. You are their children. And you should be expected to be treated as a child.

But if you are a real genuine Father, you will not take advantage of your obedient children. For you are commanded in verse, **21: Fathers, provoke not your children [to anger], lest they be discouraged.**

And that goes for you mothers as well, because you are under the headship of your husband, the father of your children. His word is the last word. What he says is law in his house. And you are the minister to carry out that law in his house. Therefore do not provoke them, do not keep needling them, and cajoling them. Tell them once and then leave off. If they disobey, use the rod, or you will spoil that child. That is God's ordained way. Did you know God said, *"If you don't use the rod, you hate your son'.*

PROVERBS 13:24 ¶ *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

PROVERBS 22:15 ¶ *Foolishness [is] bound in the heart of a child; [but] the rod of correction shall drive it far from him*

Colossians 3:22 *Servants, obey in all things [your] masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23 And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;* Notice these last words on the subject.

Whatsoever you do children, whatsoever you do servants, whatsoever you do wives, whatsoever you do husbands make sure you are doing it as unto the Lord.

And if you love and respect your wife you will not let her do what the world would cajole her to do. You will stand in the gap and do what is necessary to keep her.

FROM THAT TIME 62-0713 E-71 *Excuse me. You'd listen to your doctor, and I'm your brother. But see, these women that's to be mothers out here with these little shorts on, and... It's a disgrace to humanity. Honest, I don't believe a dog would do that. And there, these women out here acting like that... It's-- it's the most pitiful thing I ever seen in my life, most ridiculous thing. And then some boy see your girls out like that... And then let them insult them. And then you want to send them to penitentiary. You're the cause of it by sending her out like that. And you men let your wife go out like that. Shame on you. The matter, ain't you got no more respect for your wife than that? Now, no, I don't want to get on that. Notice. That's a bad thing for me. Now... I lose too many friends. But I know I'm staying in friendship with Christ, because it's written right here. That's exactly right.*