

Large Catechism Lesson 7

Part 1: The Fourth Commandment pt. 1

Opening Discussion: The Tables of the Law

Commandments 1-3 are often called the 1st Table of the Law.

- Reveals creaturely life in relation to the Creator (Vertical, *Coram Deo*)
- Creatures need to be in line with the source of life.

4-10 make up the 2nd Table of the Law.

- Relationships of creatures among themselves (Horizontal, *Coram Mundo*)
- Following or breaking these commandments has a ripple effect in the community.

4th Commandment

¶103-108

-Relating to our neighbor.

- Why is the 4th Commandment the greatest when relating to our neighbor?
- Distinction between Love and Honor

-Where does God place parents?

-In the God spot

-'Because I told you so,' becomes, 'because it is my divinely instituted office to tell you to clean your room.'

-When can parents be deprived of their honor?

-What makes this part of the commandment challenging?

-Among humans, where is there godly equality and godly inequality?

¶109-111

a) Parents are the most precious treasure on earth.

-Why?

b) We must speak modestly toward our parents.

-How is this a challenge?

c) We honor parents by our works (through body & possessions).

-What are some related challenges we wrestle with today?

¶112-116

-What is doctrine?

-Matthew 28:18-20

-The challenge of our excuses

-Where does obedience to God come into play? (cf. Acts 5:29)

-Obeying parents

-Disobeying parents

¶117-120

"Second, notice how great, good, and holy a work is assigned to children here..." [I. 112].

- When you hear the term "holy work," what comes to mind?
 - What kind of holy work is assigned to children?
- What is vocation?
- Luther's critique of the monastery
 - People tend to over-spiritualize the idea of doing God's work.

¶121-130

- Formation, Habituation
 - How much of an impact do your parents have on you...still?
 - What makes changing the family tree so difficult?
- How does God provide...(fill in the blank)?
- Larva Dei - "masks of God"
 - God's instruments for blessing
 - God has made us for one another.
- Vocation acknowledges mutual responsibilities and obligations.
 - Parent – child relationship what is expected of each?
 - Read Ephesians 6:1-4

¶131-140

- What is the temporal promise tied to this commandment?
- Who is the skeleton man?
 - Who sends him (and the hangman)?

Closing Applications

- 1) Fulfilling his law takes place in community not in isolation
 - We are obligated to one another.
 - Our actions have a ripple effect in the community.

- 2) A life centered in God is exocentric not egocentric.
 - Love God; Love Neighbor – Not Love Yourself
 - What makes a dependent life challenging for us?

- 3) Review of Coram Deo & Coram Mundo realities