

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Fear, Love & Trust

Law/Gospel

Joseph's brothers sinned when they sold Joseph into slavery and then lied to Jacob, their father, instead of respecting authority and showing love for their father and brother as Joseph did in Egypt. I, too, break the Fourth Commandment by disobeying my parents and other authorities and failing to honor them. **God's Son, Jesus, perfectly obeyed the Fourth Commandment for me, fulfilling His heavenly Father's plan of salvation by dying on the cross to save me from my sins.**

Take-Home Point

God commands that I honor authorities.

Bible Words

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20

From the Catechism The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Joseph Cares for Jacob

Genesis 46:29–30; 47:7–12

Jacob's family struggled with issues we know too well: conflicted relationships, sibling rivalry, infertility, favoritism, anger, revenge, and hostility. They weren't perfect; neither are we. Yet God graciously loved, cared for, and led Jacob's large family, just as He does you and your family today.

Jacob favored his son Joseph, and this led to resentment from his ten older sons. They sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt, and told their dad that a wild animal killed him. In doing so, the brothers sinned against God and violated the Fourth Commandment about honoring parents. Speaking to their father and expressing their hurt verbally would have been a better solution than this heartbreaking deceit.

Joseph submitted to Egyptian authorities and eventually ascended to his own place of authority as Pharaoh's right-hand man. Seeing God's hand in his circumstances, Joseph extended mercy to his father, brothers, and their families. During a severe famine, he moved them to Egypt to enjoy food and safety. Joseph provides an example of honoring those in authority even in the worst of circumstances.

The sinful nature of every person with authority over us affects their roles as parent, teacher, supervisor, police officer, mayor, senator, and the like. Each fails to live up to our expectations as a caretaker and leader. Nevertheless, God placed them in our lives for our good, to protect, nurture, and provide for us. Therefore, we are bound to honor and obey them. When we fail to do this, we break the Fourth Commandment.

Jesus flawlessly interpreted and fulfilled the Fourth Commandment. He submitted to His earthly parents. He told people to pay taxes to Caesar as the governing authority in Palestine. Nevertheless, He stood up against the Jewish and Roman leaders to fulfill His Father's plan for our salvation, a plan that took Him to the cross where He died to pay for our sins against the Fourth and all Commandments.

Prayer

Dear Lord, guide us to respect and serve those with authority over us as You command. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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