

**The Holy Nation (part 7)**  
**Political order based on “Honor Your Father and Mother”**

Joe Fuiten, September 1, 2024

In this series on “The Bible and Politics” we have been showing the biblical foundation for law and politics. Our main idea is that the Bible continues to shape our country and its politics in many ways. Recent classes have focused on the foundation provided by various of the Ten Commandments. Today I want to look at the fifth commandment as one of the key foundations of the political order. As we have noted before, by placing the Commandments within the community, promotion and enforcement of the commandments is also within the community. These are not merely personal but have a societal function as well.

*“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”* This fifth of the Ten Commandments is the first commandment with a promise attached. For Israel this meant if you follow this commandment God will reward Israel with long occupancy in the Promised Land. The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:1-3 gave the expanded meaning for Christians. *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”*<sup>2</sup> *“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—*<sup>3</sup> *“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

Following this commandment will bring blessings to the individual and to the nation that adopts it. If we apply this commandment what does it mean for the political order? We cannot go into detail on each one so I am opting for a simple listing of the ideas here. We will likely come back to several of these points and dedicate a full class to individual items.

The fifth commandment is simple and comprehensive but not unnecessarily detailed. Any exceptions to that rule must be justified by a conscience enlightened by the Word and Spirit of God. The general principle given in the Bible in all such cases is, *“It is right to obey God rather than man.”*

The foremost idea is that it presumes what should be obvious, that father and mother are male and female and the means by which children are produced.

When God created Adam and Eve, the first parents, he told them to be fruitful and fill the earth with children. Genesis 1:27-28 says it plainly *“<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”*

The fifth commandment and the creation account are connected. So many societal ideas flow from this and our study of the Bible and politics is strongly impacted. Here are some of the high points:

All human beings are valuable since they are created in God’s image. Neither race, gender, nor any social factor can diminish the value of one made in the image of God. All humanity from conception to death and burial is valuable. All laws should reflect that basic idea.

While God is the creator of all things, human beings are unique in that only they are created in God’s image. Humans are thus fundamentally different from any material thing and from any other living thing. All non-human things or creatures are to be subdued by mankind and are to thereby serve mankind. Plants and animals serve mankind. All the earth’s natural resources and wealth serve mankind. Creation is not an end in itself. Creation serves mankind.

Applying this to the political order, laws governing natural resources like fossil fuels need to take the good of mankind into consideration. There is no mother earth. There is only Father God. Paganism worships the earth while Christianity honors God and his provision of the earth for the benefit of mankind. The “green” laws relate to pagan alternatives to God’s design.

The “green” revolution has its roots in the worship of Artemis. Although Artemis had at least 136 titles by my count, she was associated with the forests where the green man kept watch. Here is a brief excerpt from my book *The Revenge of Ephesus*:

*“Lake Nemi is a volcanic lake located east of Rome in the Alban Hills where one of the many temples to Diana (Artemis) once stood. The temple was surrounded by her sacred grove. In that time the lake itself was known as “Diana’s Mirror” because, when standing in the temple, one had a perfect view of the reflection of the moon upon the lake. (Some years ago we enjoyed a wonderful dinner near Castel Gandolfo, the summer residence of the Pope, overlooking the other volcanic lake opposite Nemi.) In places like this the Lady of the Lake myths were associated with Diana as well. Of course, within that grove was Diana’s sanctuary at Nemi. The very Latin word nemus, from which Lake Nemi is named, means “sacred grove.”<sup>1</sup>*

*“The guardian of the sacred grove of Diana was known as Rex Nemorensis, the King of the Woods, or alternatively, Virbius. He is a type of “green man” figure in the witchcraft of the area because he is covered with the greenery of the woods. It is not merely coincidental that people who are the radical environmentalists today are called “green.” They are part of a long occultist tradition that includes Diana.*

*“Artemis was known by dozens of titles in antiquity including being a “tree goddess.” Trees in general belonged to her including the world tree from which unborn souls were said to come. There are all sorts of occultist themes that swirl among the trees.”*

Creation exists for mankind whereas paganism elevates creation to an end in itself above mankind and mankind must not harm creation. Laws relating to the environment and natural resources should keep mankind at the pinnacle of creation.

All the laws and regulatory orders related to gender, particularly gender fluidity, need to be filtered through the male/female creation account upon which the fifth commandment rests.

All laws related to homosexuality must take into account the fifth commandment. Children cannot obey their father and mother if they have two fathers or two mothers. There are many passages and principles related to homosexuality but the general prohibition against homosexuality is in the creation account and in the fifth commandment.

Laws prohibiting abortion can be based upon this commandment in addition to the more obvious sixth commandment not to kill.

The whole field of parental rights and responsibilities in care, custody, and control are well founded upon the fifth commandment. Such rights remain until a parent is found to be unfit or unable to exercise those rights. The principle is that the child is subject to the parent. This precludes the idea that the larger community, i.e. the government or the state, can usurp the role of the father and mother or interfere in the exercise of that role. *In loco parentis* covers the subject of institutions acting in place of the parents. *Parens patriae* is another Latin phrase from law which allows the government or other authority to legally protect citizens who are unable to protect themselves. It literally means “parents of the country.” The idea that institutions may, under some circumstances, take on the role of the parents presumes that parents have that role normally based on the fifth commandment. All these laws and principles must bend to the creation account and the fifth commandment.

The move by government educators and institutions to interfere in the lives of children to the point of providing access to abortion, sex change treatments, sexual identity matters and such without parental knowledge or permission runs counter to the fifth commandment. Private

---

<sup>1</sup>[www.themystica.com/mystica/articles/k/king\\_of\\_the\\_woods.html](http://www.themystica.com/mystica/articles/k/king_of_the_woods.html)

institutions like Planned Parenthood similarly violate the fifth commandment, among others, when they cut the parents from the decision making.

On the positive side, the State should support and encourage the well-being of the family. Since marriage and childbearing are biblically based, government has the duty to encourage and foster it and must not pass laws and practices which undermine marriage between a man and a woman or which penalize having or raising children. Tax laws which favor married couples or which favorably consider children legitimately derive from applications of the fifth commandment. Laws which allow parents to raise children in line with the moral and religious teachings of the Bible are appropriate. Educational policies should respect the parental right regarding moral and religious ideas. Laws providing “no-fault” divorce harm the family whereas laws which tend to preserve the marriage union are preferred.

Supporting the well-being of the family is a legitimate function of government. Knowing how far that can go is a subject of interpretation. Laws and programs providing welfare, social security, health care, college tuition assistance, home purchase assistance, and an endless list of government financial assistance can be based upon a very wide application of the idea. For a conservative, assistance to the family must be balanced with the requirement of work coming from the fourth commandment or the prohibition against stealing in the eighth commandment. There is room within Christianity for politicians to interpret the Bible differently when it comes to application of the text and we should be respectful of other interpretations than our own so long as they are within the Christian framework. Being respectful doesn't mean we have to agree politically with others who are working to interpret the Bible. In our system of government we all have the right of one vote which should go to those who will contribute most to the advancement of biblical ideas within the law. This is especially important in applying a commandment which promises blessings to those who practice it.