



[Leviticus 19:2-3](#)

(2) "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy. (3) " 'Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.

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Notice how powerfully [God](#) backs up the [fifth commandment](#) with the civil laws contained in Leviticus 19. In this context God names the fifth and fourth commandments in the same breath while implying the first.

The first thing required in this context is *reverence* (not honor) toward parents and [Sabbath](#) observance. These two are major pillars of good government and social well-being. Reverence is a profound, adoring, and awed respect—more than mere honor. It actually indicates "to tremble before," arising from our awareness of our weaknesses in the presence of the one we revere.

The Sabbath commandment influences social well-being in two ways. It first commands us to work six days. It takes work to make a community safe, clean, orderly, strong, peaceful, and prosperous. The other part of the commandment implies spiritual, moral, and ethical instruction, fellowshiping with others of like spiritual and moral mindset, and service to the community. That part of the commandment adds edifying qualities available nowhere else.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Fifth Commandment \(1997\)](#)

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