

Q 129. What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?

A It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love,¹ pray for,² and bless their inferiors;³ to instruct,⁴ counsel, and admonish them;⁵ countenancing,⁶ commending,⁷ and rewarding such as do well;⁸ and discountenancing,⁹ reproving, and chastising such as do ill;¹⁰ protecting,¹¹ and providing for them all things necessary for soul¹² and body:¹³ and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God,¹⁴ honor to themselves,¹⁵ and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.¹⁶

1. Col. 3:19; Titus 2:4. 2. 1 Sam. 12:23; Job 1:5. 3. 1 Kings 8:55–56; Heb. 7:7; Gen. 49:28. 4. Deut. 6:6–7. 5. Eph. 6:4. 6. 1 Pet. 3:7. 7. 1 Pet. 2:14; Rom. 13:3. 8. Est. 6:3. 9. Rom. 13:3–4. 10. Prov. 29:15; 1 Pet. 2:14. 11. Isa. 1:10, 17; Job 29:12–17. 12. Eph. 6:4. 13. 1 Tim. 5:8. 14. 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:3–5. 15. 1 Kings 3:28. 16. Titus 2:15.

Q 130. What are the sins of superiors?

A The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them,¹ and inordinate seeking of themselves,² their own glory,³ ease, profit, or pleasure;⁴ commanding things unlawful,⁵ or not in the power of inferiors to perform;⁶ counseling,⁷ encouraging,⁸ or favoring them in that which is evil;⁹ dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good;¹⁰ correcting them unduly;¹¹ careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger;¹² provoking them to wrath;¹³ or anyway dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior.¹⁴

1. Ezek. 34:2–4. 2. Phil. 2:21. 3. John 5:44; John 7:18. 4. Isa. 56:10–11; Deut. 17:17. 5. Acts 4:17–18; Dan. 3:4–6. 6. Ex. 5:18, 10–19; Matt. 23:2, 4. 7. Matt. 14:8; Mark 6:24. 8. 2 Sam. 13:28. 9. Jer. 6:13–14; Judg. 20:13–14 (entire chapter). 10. John 7:46–49; Col. 3:21; Ex. 5:17; John 9:28. 11. 1 Pet. 2:18–20; Deut. 25:3. 12. Gen. 38:11, 26; Acts 18:17; 1 Sam. 23:15–17; Lev. 19:29; Isa. 58:7. 13. Eph. 6:4. 14. Gen. 9:21; 1 Kings 12:13–16; 1 Kings 1:6; 1 Sam. 2:29–31; 3:13.

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