

I Peter 2; Lord's Day 39

HONORING GOD'S AUTHORITY

- I. Authority is the God-given right to rule (not determined by greater size, power, wisdom, or any other ability).
 - A. It is the right to set the standard for others of what is right and wrong.
 1. All authority is God's because He created, upholds, and governs all things (Rom. 11:36).
 2. God delegates the exercise of this authority to certain positions, called offices.
 - B. Among men God gives His authority in four areas of life - all called father.
 1. Natural fathers beget or adopt us into their family (Heb. 12:9).
 2. Domestic fathers are masters (II Kings 5:13; Titus 2:9,10).
 3. Political fathers (Isa. 49:23) are vested with God's authority (Rom. 13; Prov. 8:15; I Peter 2:13-17).
 4. Spiritual fathers are office-bearers (I Cor. 4:15).
 - C. The home/family is the school in which God teaches the art of obedience.
- II. How must we respond to God's authority in our "fathers"?
 - A. God would have us "honor," render respect, a submission of the soul.
 1. Honor is an inner respect and esteem, to think highly of them, giving reverence (Heb. 12:9; Lev. 19:3).
 2. Fidelity is faithfulness shown also when parents are old; there is no age limit to the honor commanded.
 3. All requires our all, not something half-hearted; and it must be shown (not just empty words).
 - B. Honor is the basis for our obedience and submission.
 1. Obedience is a yielding of ourselves to do as commanded.
 2. Honor submits when we may not obey, being willing to bear the consequences of not obeying them.
- III. Why are we to honor God's authority?
 - A. First, this is well-pleasing to God (Col. 3:20).
 - B. Also, this is the first commandment with promise.
 - C. Show your love by patiently bearing with God's will to put these weaknesses and sins.