

**Romans 13; Lord's Day 39**  
**HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER**

- I. The authority.
  - A. Authority is the right to rule, which consists of three things.
  - B. All authority is God's because he created, upholds, and governs all things (Rom. 11:36).
    - 1. God delegates the exercise of His authority to certain positions, called "offices."
    - 2. Compliance to authority (obedience and submission) are for our good - not because God has a need of it.
  - C. In the home God's rule is in the hands of parents who combine authority and love.
- II. How must we respond to God's authority in our "fathers"?
  - A. God calls us to "honor," render respect, soul submission. God requires that His children "show all honor, love, and fidelity."
    - 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 only good root for obedience and submission.
    - 1. Obedience is a yielding of ourselves to do as commanded.
    - 2. Submission means that 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. Second, God adds a promise to this commandment as encouragement.
  - C. Third, this is part of rendering grateful returns of ardent love to God: demonstrate our love for Him by honoring His authority.