

give witness for God and live in submission to God's will. If the authority will not accept the righteous standard, it may go so far as making martyrs of faithful believers. But the believer need not forsake his God.

An illustration occurs in the life of Gideon. We are told in Judges 6 how his father had built an altar to Baal. We do not know the why and wherefore but the Lord was disgraced in it and the angel of the Lord gave indication it should be removed. Gideon did not threaten and denounce his father, he simply went out and performed in the night a feat of demolition! His father was wise enough to see the justice of this and when some called for punishment, the father stood with the worthy son. Gideon's honest following of the Lord was a real tribute to his father.

We may summarize the teaching by observing that the law teaches honor of authority at all levels for the enjoyment of peace and blessing in our lives. We begin with respecting the Person of the Lord, honoring the family structure He has established, and being yielded to the authority of God in all areas of living.

God often represents himself as a Father to Israel and makes the point that as a Father he should have the honor of His children. It is what He lacks, so to speak, when we are disobedient. In this sense the honor for father and mother takes on large spiritual proportions. Perhaps one could honor father and mother and not honor God...but it surely does not seem likely. The proper sequence is honoring God and those whom He has given us.

Conclusion

How have you honored your parents lately? Perhaps they are no longer with us but is your life a credit to them and to the life they put into you? Perhaps they are yet alive, do you show them thanks and appreciation? Do you