

## Reverence Toward God

Lev 19:30

(Leviticus 19:30) 'You shall keep My sabbaths and revere My sanctuary; I am the LORD. (NAS95)

### **Introduction:**

- A. A fundamental lesson that we all need to learn is to show reverence toward our Creator. We might expect that the ungodly would display irreverence, but even some professed Christian's act irreverently.
- B. There's a sense in which people are to be reverent toward other people—wives are to reverence their husbands, and children are to show reverence toward their fathers. However, the reverence which is due to God transcends anything else. Certainly in the Old Testament God demanded reverence. Read TEXT.
- C. Reverence: "a feeling of profound respect, often mingled with awe and affection; veneration." Because He is the Lord, the Israelites were to show God reverence by keeping His Sabbaths and respecting His sanctuary. Today, how may we show...TITLE?

### **I. Respect For God's Law**

- A. Jesus taught people in His day to have respect for the law that God had given them by obeying it - Matt. 5:17-19

(Matt 5:17-19) "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NAS95)

- B. Today, we don't live under the Law of Moses, a system of works, but under the law of Christ, a system of grace - 1 Cor. 9:19-21

(1 Corinthians 9:19-21) For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. (NAS95)

- C. Therefore, we must respect the law of Christ by keeping it - Jas. 2:8-12

(James 2:8-12) If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. (NAS95)

### **II. Regular Worship Of God**

- A. In Old Testament days, one way people expressed reverence for God was through assembled worship - Psa. 89:7

(Psalms 89:7) A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him? (NAS95)

- B. Some think that everything we do is worship

1. The Biblical definition of the word is specific acts to express reverence to God
2. Jesus commands us to worship - Matt. 4:10

(Matthew 4:10) Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (NAS95)

- C. Not only do we show our reverence to God by our worship, but we need to demonstrate reverence in worship - Jn. 4:24

(John 4:24) "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NAS95)

1. Doesn't mean that we have to be sad, sober-faced, and somber
2. But it does mean doing things decently and in order - 1 Cor. 14:40

(1 Corinthians 14:40) But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner. (NAS95)

### III. *Honor In Addressing God*

- A. In Old Testament times, God's people showed great reverence to God when they prayed to the Lord—why? - Psa. 111:9

(Psalms 111:9) He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name. (NAS95)

- B. Jesus taught that we should pray in a certain manner - Matt. 6:9

(Matthew 6:9) "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (NAS95)

1. But the "buddy-buddy" attitude that some have reflected in their approach to Almighty God goes beyond the proper limits
2. You may have heard the story about the beatnik or hippie who began a prayer, "Hey, Big Daddy up in heaven."
3. Former Tampa, FL mayor, Dick Greco, attended a picnic of youngsters where one young man jumped on a table and said, "Rub a dub dub, Thanks for the grub. Yea! God!"

- C. Yes, we are told to pray - Phil. 4:6-7

(Philippians 4:6-7) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NAS95)

1. It does not make any difference whether we address God as "You" or "Thee"
2. But it is manifestly irreverent to address God in a light hearted, backslapping, "old-pal" manner

### IV. *Dignity In Teaching God's Word*

- A. Jesus wants His word to be preached - Mk. 16:15-16

(Mark 16:20) And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. (NAS95)

- B. Those that preach and teach must be careful to be good examples in everything, including their language - 1 Tim. 4:12

(1 Timothy 4:12) Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. (NAS95)

1. Certainly, any vulgar, profane, or coarse language that would be offensive to good taste should be avoided

2. But preachers and teachers should also exercise care to avoid any speech that appears irreverent; e.g., "It's cool to be a Christian" (not necessarily sinful, but questionable)

C. Preachers need to be especially careful in their speech - Tit. 2:7-8

(**Titus 2:7-8**) in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. (NAS95)

1. Any unseemly wording of what one is trying to teach may serve only to degrade the message

## V. *Loyalty To The Son Of God*

A. Because the Israelites did not reverence God by showing loyalty to Him, they were punished - 2 Chron. 36:15-17

(**2 Chronicles 36:15-17**) The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy. Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave them all into his hand. (NAS95)

B. This attitude continued, and Jesus illustrated it with a parable - Matt. 21:33-40

(**Matthew 21:33-40**) "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. "When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. "The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. "But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' "They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" (NAS95)

C. Jesus wants us to be loyal or faithful to Him - Rev. 2:10

(**Revelation 2:10**) 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (NAS95)

## VI. *Humility In Life*

A. Throughout the Old Testament, God sought to impress His people with the need for humility - Mic. 6:8

(**Micah 6:8**) He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? (NAS95)

B. Jesus also taught the importance of humility - Lk. 14:11

(**Luke 14:11**) "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (NAS95)

1. A person who unduly exalts himself lacks reverence toward God

C. Therefore, we need to humble ourselves to serve others and God - 1 Pet. 5:5-6

(**1 Peter 5:5-6**) You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, (NAS95)

***Conclusion:***

A. Why is reverence so important? (Heb. 12:28)

(Hebrews 12:28) Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; (NAS95)

B. If you're not a Christian, you can show God reverence by obeying His will to be saved from sin