

REVERENCE FOR GOD

(Or A Lack Of It)

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In Hebrews 12:28, we read, “*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*” As Christians, we are always to reverence and respect God, but there are many in the world today who fail to do so. In thinking of such a group, we may be inclined to name murderers, prostitutes, alcoholics, homosexuals, etc., but we often fail to name those who are the most irreverent and disrespectful of all, “Christians.” Christians, of all people, know the importance of showing God respect and giving Him reverence. Why then, do many Christians show a lack of reverence to God? They do not love God as they should (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3).

There are many ways today in which some Christians show a lack of reverence toward God. Let us notice just a few:

1. Many Are Not Reverent Because They Take God’s Name In Vain. God, in giving Moses the Ten commandments in Exodus 20:7, said “*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain*” Taking God’s name in vain carries more than the idea of curse words, it also carries the idea of *euphemisms*. Many today say “Oh Lord,” “Lord,” “Oh my God,” “Jesus,” “gosh,” etc., in a flippant way. In doing so, God’s name is being taken in vain. Many do it merely out of habit, but that is a habit that should be stopped. When we use the Lord’s name, it should ALWAYS be used out of respect; but today it is used in vain in many places. Let us always be careful not to vainly use God’s name. James 4:17 records, “*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*”

2. Many Are Not Reverent Because They Do Not Respect God's Word. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “*Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say*” (Luke 6:46). Matthew records, “*Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*” Many today show a lack of respect for God by not following His Word. “*Be ye doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving your own selves*” (Jam. 1:22). Many do not respect God’s command to worship regularly. “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*” (Heb. 10:25). Many do not attend worship as they should and thus sin. They will lose their soul on the Day of Judgment because they are willfully forsaking the worship assemblies. Many disregard the doctrine of God. Today, the false teachers in the church are trying to lessen the importance of doctrine to allow things that are not found in God’s Word. They show disrespect and irreverence to God when they do these things. They think God’s grace will cover all these unscriptural practices. God’s grace is NEVER going to cover doctrinal or moral sins unless they are repented of by the ones involved.

3. Many Are Not Reverent Because They Fail To Worship God. Many Christians today come to worship, but they fail to worship. They will talk, pass notes, sleep, or think about *everything* else but God. Some do not sing, pray, or learn from God’s Word. Singing is commanded by God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). When someone fails to sing praises to God, he violates the command to sing. When some talk during the sermon or Bible class, they do not listen to what God is saying through His Word. When this is done, others are distracted from worship and cannot concentrate on what is being said or done. When someone is late for worship, it disrupts the service.

This also shows a lack of respect for God. A person will not be late for his job, but is late for worship, every time. If we *truly* wanted to please God, then we will be on time for worship.

When a Christian fails to give God the reverence He deserves, then he sins in the sight of God and WILL ultimately be punished. Sadly, EVERY day there are those who do not give God the reverence He deserves because they do not live, talk, or act like a Christian. The Hebrew writer gives a warning in Hebrews 10:31, "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*" Those who are irreverent to God now will forever lose their soul on the Day of Judgment.