

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## **The Fear of Being Slighted**

### **A Chosen Article**

Have you ever been slighted? You know, when you are with someone you hold in esteem and he or she denies you? For instance, a husband takes his wife to a holiday function with business associates and mingles around. His wife is at his side, but as he interacts with others, he fails to acknowledge his wife let alone introduce her.

Being slighted can hurt, whether with a spouse, among friends, or around business colleagues. No one likes it. It is personal and painful. Jesus addressed this issue in Matthew 10:32, 33 ***“Therefore, whoever confesses Me before me, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever does not confess Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”***

What will it feel like to stand before the Almighty on the Day of Judgment and be denied by the Lord? His words will be, ***“I never knew you; depart from Me...”*** (Matt. 7:23). This is one denial we will not overcome. There will be no reconciliation. There will not be enough time to get over it because time will be no more.

Why would the loving Lord who gave Himself for us do such a thing? ***Because we will first deny Him.***

During our time on earth we have the opportunity to either acknowledge the Savior or ignore Him. We can humbly submit to His will and honor Him with our service or turn away from Him. When faced with temptation, we must make this choice.

Most of us will likely never face the decision of either verbally denying Christ or be killed because of our spoken

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confession; like the apostles and saints of the first century. However, will do face situations where those around us are engaged in sin and we must decide to join them or leave, remain silent or speak out. When we cower from doing what is right, we in effect slight the Lord.

Do you think when we slight the Savior it hurts Him? Of course it does. He loves us deeply. When someone we love deeply denies us, it hurts. It is no different for Christ.

Let us be honorable and show true love for Jesus. Let us acknowledge Him in all our ways so that He will acknowledge us on the Last Day (cf. Prov. 3:6).

## **What Determines Holiness?**

**By Steven Deaton**

All who believe in God ought to be interested in holiness as He has commanded (1 Pet. 1:15-16). To be holy is to be set apart from the world of sin, dedicated to serving God. Without holiness “no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). Well, what determines holiness?

Moses was told to take off his sandals because the ground where he stood was holy (Ex. 3:5). Peter referred to the mount of transfiguration as “the holy mountain” (2 Pet. 1:18). Is there sand, dirt, or rock that is inherently holy? May we go to some geographical location and find natural elements that are sanctified before God? Jesus told the Samaritan woman that there is no specific location that is more holy than any other (Jn. 4:20-24). What made the ground under Moses’ feet holy? What made the mountain where Peter stood holy? The presence of God. The same thing makes us holy.

In order for us to be holy, we must have God dwelling with us. Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him” (Jn. 14:23). Therefore, the way to have God dwelling with you is to accept and submit to His commands. Jesus said He will abide in us when His word abides in us (Jn. 15:4-7). As Paul

said, Christ dwells in our hearts by faith, which comes by hearing the word of God (Eph. 3:15; Rom. 10:17). If we do not accept the Lord's teaching on fornication, adultery, uncleanness, lewdness, or other works of the flesh, we are not holy (Gal. 5:19-21). If we rebel and reject the Spirit's revelation on husbands and wives, we are not holy (Eph. 5:22-33). If we are factional, we are not holy (Titus 3:10-11).

Congregationally, we are holy only when God is with us. Jesus promised to be with even two or three who gather in His name—by His authority (Matt. 18:20; Col. 3:17). Churches that follow the New Testament pattern in worship, work, and organization are holy. Those that do not, are not. For instance, musical worship in the New Testament consisted of singing, teaching, and admonishing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Those who add instrumental music are not holy because they do not accept the word of God on this point. The same can be said for observing the Lord's Supper. The Bible pattern is partaking the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine on the first day of the week, as often as that comes (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7). Many churches do not do this, and are, therefore, unholy. In short, for a congregation to be holy, it must separate itself from false religious doctrines and practices, and follow the will of the Lord (2 Cor. 6:14-16). We this is done, God promised to dwell among them (2 Cor. 6:17-18). "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1).

***"...as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"***

- 1 Pet. 1:15-16

## **Of Christ**

***From Hebron Herald***

Those interested in eternal salvation must be of Christ. He is the only one through whom redemption comes (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Jn. 3:16). It is through Him alone that one may go to the Father (Jn. 14:6). So, what is required to be of Christ?

In dealing with problems at Corinth, Paul said, "***Now I say this that each of you says, 'I am of Paul, or I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for***

***you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"*** (1 Cor. 1:12-13). To be of Paul, he had to be crucified for you and you must be baptized in his name. So, to be of Christ, He must be crucified for you and you must be baptized in His name. The former is done. Jesus gave His life for the sins of all men (Jn. 1:29; Heb. 2:9). The latter is up to each one of us. All who are baptized in the name of Christ are His (Acts 2:38). If you are not baptized in the name of Christ, you are not of Christ—you are lost.