

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

JUNE 13, 2021

TO WHOM DO I SHOW REVERENCE?

by Jim Stauffer

Like most gospel preachers, I have been given the title of Reverend from time to time by a funeral home. If they do this in time for it to be corrected it presents no problem. A simple explanation that my only title is the job description of Evangelist, will solve the problem.

The greatest concern is the reason such a mistake is so common. It is because those who occupy the pulpits of most denominations apply titles to their names, of which Reverend is a common one.

It would seem to a logical person that a man who is referred to as a man of God would be likely to consult God about such matters.

Scripture is very clear there are not to be such designations and special honor conferred on one another among His servants. *“But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.”* (Matthew 23:8–12) Do we understand these men face a time when they will be humbled, and it will occur because they have exalted themselves?

There is an incident in **Matthew Chapter 20** where the mother of James and John seek the Lord to request He elevate her sons to His right and left hand. As the other apostles became upset about this effort, Jesus explained the difference in His disciples elevating themselves rather than becoming servants like He would do. *“And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to*

become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

(**Matthew 20:24–28**) Jesus expressed this principle about the role of a disciple more than once in His ministry (**John 13:1-20**).

Examples of the conduct the Lord demands is demonstrated elsewhere in the Scriptures. Peter was initially worshiped by Cornelius when he answered the summons of the Centurion. But Peter clearly rejected such worship by explaining he was a man just as Cornelius was. *“On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, Stand up; I too am just a man.”* (**Acts 10:24–26**) In the book of Revelation, John is told to refrain from worshiping the angel of God on two occasions (**Rev. 19:9,10; 22:8,9**).

Clearly, those who are servants of God are not to be elevated, one above the other. Even the apostles did not do this in their relationship with their fellow Christians in the first century. However, worship is reserved for those of the Godhead. Jesus is worshiped as a child (**Matt. 2:11**), as the Son of God as He rescued His apostles (**Matt. 14:33**), and after His resurrection (**Matt. 28:8,9**). The Psalmist expresses how God has elevated Christ above all others (**Psa. 45:6,7 cf. Heb. 1:8,9**).

The simple fact is God has through His Son redeemed us from the clutches of Satan. We are all equal in our sin and our redemption. The word reverend is used only once in the Scriptures and it is used to apply to God. How presumptuous of any man to take the appellation reserved for God and attach it to himself.

To all who read this, please understand what is being taught in Scripture and may we all explain that message to our friends whoever and wherever they are. Otherwise we shall be humbled, as He says in **Matthew 23**, when He comes to judge the world in righteousness (**Acts 17:31**).

Complexity of Design in Creation

Imagine this conversation in the tiny bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, operated by Orville and Wilbur Wright . . .

Orville: "Hey, Wilbur, I've invented an engine. Let's go flying!"

Wilbur: "Well, what does the engine do?"

Orville: "It just runs."

Wilbur: "Does it power anything – like maybe a propeller or something?"

Orville: "I haven't developed a propeller yet."

Wilbur: "Well, what about wings? Have you figured that out yet?"

Orville: "Nope. Just an engine."

Of course, such a conversation would be utterly ridiculous. When the Wright brothers made their famous flight at Kitty Hawk, NC, they had to have all the parts perfected simultaneously. One part without all the others would have resulted in complete failure.

Now, apply this simple principle to our natural world and all the living things in it. For instance, could an eagle have begun its living history with wings, but no eyes? Could a man start out with a heart, but no liver or kidneys? The answers are obvious.

What we are describing here is a concept called 'irreducible complexity'. This phrase was coined by author Michael Behe in a book entitled Darwin's Black Box. He powerfully argued that all of nature shows evidence of design, and thus a designer. Various components of complex living organisms could not have evolved separately. They all had to come together at once – by design.

We know that the designer and creator of all things is God. The proof for His supernatural creation is all around us. Examining this proof also delivers a death blow to the anti-scientific theory of evolution. Think!by **Greg Gwin ;From the Beacon Electronic Edition; Colleevue church of Christ, Columbia, Tn.**

"THIS IS WORSHIP???"

"It's Sunday morning, beginning date for a series of meetings.

The preacher walks to the pulpit to begin his lesson.

11:15: Sermon begins.

11:20: Introduction completed.

11:21: It begins to rain. Men go outside to roll up car windows. Preacher hopes someone rolls his up, too.

11:24: Men begin to return.

11:25: Last man sits down. 'Maybe everybody can listen to the sermon now,' preacher thinks.

11:26: Point number two begins. Preacher hopes this one goes better than the first point.

11:28: Little Julie runs across aisle to sit with Grandma. Bobby is passed over the pew to Aunt Lillian.

11:29: Man gets up from front seat, walks between preacher and table and out a side door. Preacher wonders where he's going. Everybody else wonders. All eyes are on him.

11:32: Man returns with glass of water, which he places on pulpit stand. He thought the preacher might be thirsty. Preacher thanks him.

11:34; Point number three begins. Preacher's sure nobody listened to second point.

11:35: Little Sammy jumps up to go to restroom...grins at everybody as he goes by.

11:37; Little Sammy returns, which reminds little Jill that she needs to go. She's the timid kind; head ducked as she walks back. Isn't she cute?

11:39: Jill returns, and now it's Joe's turn. This continues to end of service.

11:40: Point number four begins. Preacher feels that if he can just get this point across, at least his effort won't be wasted.

11:42:Young people in the back are in a state of hysterics over brother Smith's snoring. Parents nervously turn around with threatening stares. Young people go through facial contortions trying to straighten up. Preacher almost loses his composure. How did brother Smith go to sleep in the first place with all the commotion going on?

11:45:Preacher begins conclusion. Everybody grabs for a song book. All babies are returned to their mothers. Little Johnny drops a quarter that he forgot to contribute. It rolls all the way to the front. Seems like it won't ever get there. Little Susan gets tickled and laughs out loud. Embarrassed mother pops Susan. Laughter turns to mourning.

11:50:Invitation song begins.

Bill Hall; 77th Street church of Christ, Birmingham, Al.

Is any and all worship acceptable to God?

The Bible clearly teaches that not all worship is accepted by God. There are several significant examples of worship that were emphatically rejected by God:

- Cain offered a sacrifice that was not accepted by the Lord (**Genesis 4:3-6**).
- Nadab & Abihu offered fire that was not commanded by the Lord and were condemned for it (**Leviticus 10:1-2**).
- King Saul offered an unlawful sacrifice and his dynasty was cut off (**1 Samuel 13:9-14**).
- The nation of Israel is often rebuked in the writings of the prophets because they offer worship and sacrifices while they live in disobedience to God. That worship is rejected.
- Ananias and Sapphira both lost their lives because they were dishonest in their offering (**Acts 5:1-11**).

A Samaritan woman asked Jesus about proper worship in **John 4:19-26**. She wondered where the right place to worship was. Jesus tells her the Samaritans' worship was wrong. Jesus also indicated that the Jews also failed in their worship. He concludes by saying "*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*" (**John 4:24**). For worship to be acceptable to God it must be done according to His instructions AND it must come from a true and sincere heart or worship.

Unfortunately, not all are worshipping according to the direction and instruction of God. Rather, many are worshipping however they want. Sadly, some who worship are just going through the motions without genuinely offering their devotion to God.

Not all worship is acceptable to God.

Don Bunting

A Lack of Knowledge

Be honest with yourself, if you had not grown up in a Christian society or family, would your knowledge about Christianity convince you to become one today? If we look deep down and we are not sure **why** we believe what we believe, then why believe it? **Hosea 4:6** says: "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*" God knew that his people Israel needed a strong foundation of knowledge to base their faith on.

Some believe that faith is simply instilled in the believer without any knowledge necessary. We see a very different picture in Scripture. **1st Thessalonians 5:21** commands: "*Test (or prove) all things; hold fast to what is good.*" The Christians in Berea were highly commended because they used this approach. **Acts 17:11** "*These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*"

The Apostle Paul had persecuted Christians, even putting them to death (**Acts 26:10**). Yet he could say that he had lived in all good conscience (**Acts 23:1**). Though what he had done was clearly wrong, he felt he was doing God's will at the time. He had "*...a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.*" (**Romans 10:2**) **A Christian's zeal should always be directed by knowledge from God's word rather than one's own feelings.** Let's base our feelings on our reasonable faith instead of basing our faith and practice on just our feelings.

We would love to study the Bible more with you!

Matt Hodge; www.marshfield.church

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We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
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Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10