



God is to be Held in Reverence



Psalm 89:7

**“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints,
And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.”**

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- ▶ Israel was commanded to fear and to reverence God
 - ▶ Leviticus 19:14, 30
 - ▶ 13 times – “I am the Lord” or “I am the Lord your God”
 - ▶ Israel failed to make that distinction between the holy and the unholy
 - ▶ Ezekiel 22:26; 44:23-24
 - ▶ But reverence is not just an Old Testament command. And irreverence not just an Old Testament problem.
 - ▶ The world is irreverent and does not fear God
 - ▶ Very casual culture
 - ▶ Children not raised to show respect to parents, teachers, elders, anyone...and especially God
 - ▶ From the smallest to the great

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- ▶ Reverence and fear of God is a disposition, an attitude that manifests itself, and it cannot be hidden
 - ▶ Irreverence and an absence of the fear of God manifests itself, and it cannot be hidden
 - ▶ We observe it in the words and actions of the world
 - ▶ Behind sin is irreverence – Romans 3:10-18
 - ▶ Reverence and godly fear must characterize God's children
 - ▶ If it does not, there are undoubtedly fruits that follow and eternal consequences

What is reverence and godly fear?

- ▶ Hebrews 12:28-29
- ▶ “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with **reverence** and **godly fear**. For our God is a consuming fire.” (NKJV)
- ▶ Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let’s show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with **reverence** and **awe**; for our God is a consuming fire.” (NASB)
- ▶ Reverence (127) and godly fear (2124) – KJV, NKJV
- ▶ Reverence (2124) and awe (127) – ASV, NASB

What is reverence and godly fear?

- Reverence – attitude of deep respect for something sacred; profound respect mingled with love and awe; involves a recognition of inferiority of self
- Awe – profound and reverential dread inspired by deity
- Consider:
 - Hebrews 5:7 (2124)
 - Reverential devotion and submission to the Father's will
 - 1 Timothy 2:9 – “shamefacedness” (127)
 - Fear of doing a shameful thing
 - “always restrains a good man from an unworthy act” (Vine's, p568); involves caution and carefulness before God; verse 29
 - Hebrews 12:9 – “respected them”; “gave them reverence”
- Reverence and godly fear are right!
 - Psalm 19:9
- **Cannot worship and serve God acceptably without reverence and godly fear**

Underneath reverence and godly fear: Recognition of:

- Who God is and who I am
 - Psalm 8:3-5
 - Isaiah 55:8-9
 - Problem of irreverence: distinction not made
 - Psalm 50:21; 9:20
- God's power and my lack of it
 - Creator
 - Psalm 33:8-9
 - Isaiah 29:23
 - Sustainer
 - Jeremiah 5:22-24

Underneath reverence and godly fear: Recognition of:

- ▶ God's holiness
 - ▶ Habakkuk 2:20
 - ▶ Revelation 15:4
- ▶ God's righteous judgment and wrath
 - ▶ Hebrews 12:29; 10:31
 - ▶ Psalm 119:120
- ▶ The absolute authority of His word
 - ▶ Isaiah 66:2
 - ▶ Ezra 10:3
 - ▶ God means what He says
 - ▶ Hebrews 2:3
- ▶ Because of these reasons, we ought to have reverence and godly fear!

The fruits of reverence and godly fear

- ▶ Like love – 1 Corinthians 13
 - ▶ Reverence and godly fear is known by its fruits
 - ▶ Irreverence and absence of godly fear is known by its fruits
 - ▶ Demonstrated in our thinking, our words, our actions
- ▶ Reverence and godly fear direct our behavior, not the other way around
- ▶ May try to appear reverent, but that does not make me reverent. Reverence begins in the heart!
- ▶ Hebrews 12:28-29
 - ▶ Reverence is demonstrated in our service and in our worship to God

The fruits of reverence and godly fear

- Reverence and godly fear necessary to:
 - Gaining knowledge – Proverbs 1:7
 - Gaining godly wisdom – Proverbs 9:10
 - Will not be a man of godly wisdom without reverence and godly fear

- Foremost, the fruit of reverence and godly fear is reverential submission to the will of God – obedience
 - Deuteronomy 6:2
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13

- Living holy lives
 - 1 Peter 1:17
 - 2 Corinthians 7:1

The fruits of reverence and godly fear

- ▶ The language that we use
 - ▶ Psalm 111:9
 - ▶ Matthew 6:9
 - ▶ Matthew 5:33-37
 - ▶ Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29
 - ▶ Abhor the taking of God's name in vain
 - ▶ "Oh God"
 - ▶ OMG
 - ▶ "jeez" – abbreviation of Jesus
 - ▶ "golly" – euphemism for God
 - ▶ "gee" – euphemism for the name Jesus
 - ▶ Matthew 12:36

The fruits of reverence and godly fear

- Acceptable worship
 - Psalm 122:1
 - Psalm 89:7
 - Good Example
 - Nehemiah 8:3, 5, 6
 - Bad example
 - Malachi 1:6-8, 13
 - Weariness
 - Inferior, not best
 - Leftovers
- Respectful appearance
- Respectful attention
- Respectful participation

The fruits of reverence and godly fear

- Worship not a time for
 - Passing notes
 - Reverence and godly fear?
 - Giggling
 - Reverence and godly fear?
 - Sleeping
 - Reverence and godly fear?
 - Texting
 - Reverence and godly fear?
 - Daydreaming
 - Reverence and godly fear?
 - Planning your day
 - Reverence and godly fear?

The fruits of reverence and godly fear


- ▶ Hebrews 12:28-29
- ▶ **The only way to serve God acceptably is with reverence and godly fear**
- ▶ Christian: Be an example to the world of reverence and godly fear

The fruits of irreverence

- Greater concern for things in the sight of men than in the sight of God
 - Acts 5:1-4; 11
- Disobedience and thus condemnation from God
 - Romans 1:20-21ff, 32
- Worship in any way
 - Leviticus 10:1-3
 - Colossians 2:23 “Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in **will-worship**, and humility, and severity to the body; but are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.”
- Disregard for the proper order according to the Word of God
 - 2 Samuel 6:9; 1 Chronicles 15:13
- Irreverence and lack of godly fear is the spirit of liberalism
 - “it’s no big deal”
 - “whatever”
 - 2 Timothy 1:13

Reverence and godly fear need to be on display in the home

- As goes the home, so goes the nation
- Ephesians 6:4
- Children need to see us speaking with reverence and godly fear
 - Lifting up and praising the name of God
 - Not taking His name in vain
 - And they must be taught and not be allowed to take His name in vain
- Children need to see us tremble at the word of God
 - Utmost respect for what God said without compromise
 - Fear of violating
 - The Bible the most important book in your house
- Reverence and respect for God involves praying together in reverence and godly fear
- Children need to see the priority in our lives of worshipping God



“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

For our God is a consuming fire.”

Hebrews 12:28-29