

GOD IS REVEREND

God is awesome. He is worthy *“to receive glory and honor and power”* because He created all things (Revelation 4:11). No one and nothing can be compared to the true and living God. *“For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him. O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.”* (Psalm 89:6-8). God is to be revered.

Reverence is an attitude of deep respect, love and awe for that which sacred. The sacredness of God surpasses all persons, principalities and objects in this world and universe. The psalmist declares, *“Holy and reverend is His name”* (111:9). [KJV, ASV] Or, *“Holy and awesome is His name.”* [NKJV, NASV] Throughout Biblical history great men of faith served God. Their faithfulness was commendable and exemplary, but their names, although remembered, were not reverend and awesome. God alone is worthy of such honorable distinction, not men.

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke against the practice of men attributing to themselves and accepting religious titles. He rebuked Jewish leaders of His day because they sought ways to exalt themselves apart from others. Thus, He instructed His disciples not to be called by special titles, such as Rabbi, Father and Teacher (cf. Matthew 23:8-10). All men in Christ are brethren, devoting themselves to their respective roles as Christians. Abilities used in the cause of Christ vary, but those differences and distinctions are not to be elevated above others by way of religious titles and prefixes before their names.

In the New Testament ministers of Christ and preachers of the gospel, including the apostles, never identified themselves as reverend. All Christians are called unto sanctification, called to live holy lives, but God alone is the awesome One. God’s name is reverend. No man, clergy included, is deserving of the veneration of the title “reverend” because no one is like the Lord God of hosts.