

WHY I DON'T WANT TO BE CALLED REVEREND
(or any other Religious Title)

TEXT: Psa. 111:9.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many people today call their preacher Reverend.
- B. Some go further and call him "The Right Reverend."
- C. Even people who are not religious call men Reverend.
- D. The members of the church (for the most part) don't call the preacher, REV.
- E. You might have heard this before, "The word Reverend is used only once in the Bible and is the name of God."
- F. Is this a correct statement and does it prohibit us calling the preacher Reverend?

BODY: WHY I DON'T WANT TO BE CALLED REVEREND.

I. NOT BECAUSE IT MAKES A SHOW OF MY HUMILITY.

A. Humility is a Christian Characteristic We Should Have.

- 1. 1 Peter 5:5-7.
- 2. Matt. 23:12. "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
- 3. Phil. 2:3-4.
- 4. James 4:6. But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

B. I may reject the term Rev. and at the same time have a haughty spirit about it.

C. There is such a thing as being proud of your "humility."

II. NOT BECAUSE THE TERM IS USED ONLY ONCE IN THE BIBLE AND THIS WITH REFERENCE TO GOD, OR AS THE NAME OF GOD.

A. This is the Reason Most Often Given by Members of the Church.

B. The word in its various forms is used some 376 times in the Hebrew Bible.

1. Hebrew word, YARE- "To fear, stand in awe, be fearful, be dreadful, wonderful, glorious.
2. Some examples of its usage:
 - a. Num. 12:8 I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"
 - b. Ps. 47:2. For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.
 - c. Ps. 130:4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.
 - d. Ps. 111:9. He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome reverend His name.
 - e. Lev. 19:3. `Every one of you shall revere (KJV *fear*) his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.
3. The word reverence is used in the New Testament.
 - a. Eph. 5:33 (KJV) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband
 - b. Heb. 12:9 (KJV) Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

C. Notice the same thing of the word Holy.

1. Isa. 57:15 God's name is Holy.
2. Heb. 3:1 calls the brethren Holy.
3. Holy and reverend are both descriptive terms. Adjectives.
4. We are to reverence our father, but I did not call my dad Reverend, his name was Bud, or Leonard.

D. I can see nothing in Ps. 111:9 that would condemn the use of reverend as a title.

E. Let's never be guilty of using a Scripture out of its context, even if it is to prove a proposition of truth- 2 Peter 3:15-16.

III. REASONS WHY I REFUSE TO BE CALLED REVEREND AND OTHER TITLES OF DISTINCTION.

A. It was originated to exalt the clergy above the laity-- to foster further the unscriptural idea that the priest was a holy being which stood between God and man, one who could forgive sins and inflict punishment.

B. All men occupy an equal relationship to God.

1. 1 Tim. 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,.

2. 1 Jn. 2:1-2.

3. All are part of the body- 1 Cor. 12:12-27.

C. The greatest among Christians is to be servant of all.

1. Matt. 23:11. "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

2. Jn. 13:12-17.

D. One is to humble himself rather than exalt himself.

1. Matt. 23:12.

2. James 4:10.

3. 1 Peter 5:6.

E. Christ forbade the use of any religious titles for the purpose of distinction. Matt. 23:1-10.

F. All Christians are God's clergy.

1. 1 Peter 5:3 "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock."

2. Heritage is form KLEROO- the word we get Clergy from.

3. All are the same in God's eyes. No laity and Clergy:

CONCLUSION:

A. I am a servant of God. Why should I take upon myself a title that indicates I am to be looked upon with reverence or awe?

B. Beside this, no New Testament preacher, great as they were, ever took the title Reverend.

C. You can be a part of God's Heritage today.