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**Reverence in Worship****Introduction:**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.”  NKJV  The text stresses the need for reverence on the part of those who would draw nigh to God.  The Bible commands this throughout.  Model Prayer – Matthew 6:9-13  “In this manner, therefore, pray:  Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by Your name.  Your kingdom come.  Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.  Give us this day our daily bread.  And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.  And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.  For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  Amen.The word “hallowed” basically means to make holy, to set apart.  We should realize how far above every other name is the name of God the Father.  (Hebrews 12:28) “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.” NKJV  Reverence shows caution and apprehension.  Be careful to consider all circumstances before acting.  (John 4:24) “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”  Worship literally means to kiss toward; the act of homage or adoration paid to God.  The concept of reverence raises certain questions which need to be answered for us to more fully understand its significance.**Body:****I.**  **What Is Reverence?**If one does not understand the Biblical concept, then he cannot comply with it!  It would then be impossible for him to know if he is being reverent in his worship to God.  Reverence is not merely respect, not merely being quiet in assembly, nor is it merely participating in the outward forms, even though all of these are necessary. What is “reverence” then?  The Hebrew word used in our main text literally means “terrible.”  It reflects an attitude of both piety and godly fear.  Piety itself involves devotion to religious duty.  Therefore, the word “reverence” describes both an attitude and behavior where the worshipper desires and is careful to please God and refrain from offending Him. Some thoughts:1.  The worshipper should be cautious regarding his observances during worship.2.  His approach is not flippant or half-hearted.3.  His regard for worship is one of highest esteem.4.  It involves respect for the authority of God.5.  It demands awe and fear on behalf of the worshipper.6.  It requires careful consideration of the power and majesty of God.As a side note, before we continue:  Sometimes we are more afraid of offending some human dignitary than we are God in heaven!  We are more careful about what we wear and how we act in a court of law than we are in services.  The same is true in our regards to the President.  Even though he is the highest ranking official in America, his power and honor pales compared to our God.**II.**  **To Whom Do We Owe Our Reverence?**Let’s turn to the Holy Scriptures to find the answer.  (Psalm 107:32) “Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, And praise Him in the company of the elders.”  NKJV  God is referred to in this passage as the one we should exalt and praise.  (Psalm 111:9) “He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name.”  NKJV  The name of our Father should be held in awe by His worshippers and should call to mind how vastly inferior we are to Him.  (Psalm 5:7) “But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.”  NKJV  With reverence, we worship Him who extended mercy toward us by sending His Son to die upon a lonely tree.  Let us love Him all the days of our lives.  Habakkuk 2:20 reminds us of His greatness.  “But the Lord is in His holy temple.  Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”  NKJV  Not only is reverence due to our Father, but also to His word.  (Isaiah 66:2b) “But on this one will I look:  On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.”  NKJV  [trembles – reverences]  Let us never forget the One to whom our worship and reverence is directed!**III.**  **Why Is Reverence to God So Important?****1.**  Because God Commanded It ·  Notwithstanding the views of some of my brothers in Christ, especially those espousing the so-called “New Hermeneutic”, doing the commandments of God is of vital importance. (Revelation 22:14) “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”  NKJV  And as a result, we shall be blessed above all people.  (John 13:17) “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”  **2.**  Because of Who God Is·  Our God is the Great I AM.  (Exodus 3:14) “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’  And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’ ” NKJV  He is the true sovereign of the world, the only real Master of the Universe.  Let us revere Him for Who He is. **3.**  Because the Love of God Requires It·  The love for our earthly fathers instills within us the desire to please them and to not offend.  Our spiritual Father in heaven deserves even more reverence and respect than our fathers here on earth.  Remember I John 5:3. “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.  And His commandments are not burdensome.”  NKJV  Why do we love God?  We love God because He first loved us and gave up His only begotten Son.  That’s why! **4.**  Because of God’s Severity·  Let’s listen to the words of Romans 11:22. “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God; on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness.  Otherwise you also will be cut off.”  NKJVSeverity – cutting off  In papyri, the use of exacting to the full the provisions of a statute.  God does demand justice.  Such examples as the death of Nadab and Abihu and the punishment of King Uzziah where he was stricken with leprosy until his death are reminders of this.  A warning along these very lines is given in Psalm 2:12.  “Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little.  Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”  NKJV  This is a sobering thought. **5.**  Because of a Need to Sanctify God Before the Eyes of Others  Amen.·  Hear the words of the Lord as spoken to Aaron in Leviticus 10:3.  “. . . By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified. . .”  NKJV  As his followers, we must see and regard God as holy.  We should also be reminded of the apostle Peter’s words in  I Peter 3:15.  “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”  NKJV  How we conduct ourselves during the worship services may say a lot to others about how important we feel worship is.  If people see us acting irreverently toward our God, does it not say to them that we do not take our religion very seriously?  Would not this influence others in a very negative way?**Closing Remarks and Invitation:**Read Psalm 89:7 again.  “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.”  NKJV  God is to be exalted above all else.  The natural question then is this:  Have you personally placed Him above everything?  Have you worshipped Him reverently?  If not, you can do something about it right now.  Please come. Bobby Stafford June 14, 2015[More on Worship](http://www.granbychurchofchrist.org/Studies.htm#Worship) |
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| **Matt 11:28-29*****"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."*** |

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