



*Don't Call Me
"Reverend"*

By

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When some people learn that I preach, they refer to me as "Reverend" or "Rev." I understand that they are trying to show respect and courtesy toward me. Such religious titles are commonly worn by the "clergy" of the denominations and I suppose that most people assume that I am a part of that ecclesiastical system. They do not know that there is a distinction between preachers of the Gospel of the kingdom God and denominational clergy. Nevertheless, I refuse to accept the religious title of "reverend" that is so commonly worn and sought after by denominational clergymen.

HERE ARE THE REASONS WHY I REJECT THE TITLE REVEREND:

❖ There is no biblical or New Testament authority for the title.

Though there were many gospel preachers in the first century, not one of them accepted and wore this religious title. We do not read where Paul was ever called "Reverend Paul." Peter was never called "Reverend Peter." James was never called "Reverend James." Timothy was never called "Reverend Timothy" And John was never referred to as "The Right Reverend, Dr. John." The non-biblical title of "Reverend" arose centuries after the original Christian Church was established by the apostles of Christ. The religious title of "Reverend" was never worn with the approval of God. Consequently, I refuse to be addressed by this religious title and those who address me by this title do so at the risk of being corrected.

❖ Wearing the title of "Reverend" is expressly condemned.

The Lord Jesus forbade the practice when He said, "But be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ (Matt. 23:8-10). *The practice of calling a man "Reverend" is contrary to the spirit of Christ since God the Father is the only entity to be revered.*

❖ **The Title of “Reverend” exalts man too highly.**

Paul warned us "not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another" (1 Cor. 4:6). Man should not be an object of worship as some have obviously become. Peter would not allow Cornelius to bow to him (Acts 10:26); an angel would not allow John to worship him (Rev. 22:9). Man steps outside the limits of his humanity when he allows himself to be *worshiped* or *reverenced*. When man exalts himself through flattering titles such as "reverend" or "right reverend" he encourages others to offer praise to him, rather than giving praise to God. ***This is a form of idolatry and sin.***

❖ **God has ordained specific titles in connection with His divine callings.**

The New Testament titles for spiritual leaders in the body of Christ shows what a man’s calling authorizes him to do. For instance, a man is a "doctor" because he doctors the sick; a man is a builder because he builds. These titles explain what a man does. **In the same way the Apostolic Church of the first century used titles to describe the office and divine tasks of men and not to reverence them or exalt them above their brethren.**

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-12). A preacher preaches (1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11 & 2 Tim. 4:2). An evangelist evangelizes (Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5) Bishops teach and generally oversee Church doctrine and practices (Acts 20:28). "Pastors" tend or shepherd a local congregation (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3). **These are not religious titles of ecclesiastical hierarchy whereby one brother is exalted above another; they are descriptive terms which tell what a man does in service of the kingdom of God.**

It was the *Great Mother Whore* (Rev. 17:5) and her denominational offsprings that perverted and corrupted the spiritual meaning of the offices that God gave to those he called to serve in the body of Christ. It was these abominations that created the ecclesiastical hierarchy and political system of

power and prestige whereby one spiritual office is considered superior to another. It was the sinfulness of pride that compelled the counterfeit Christian church to deem one office superior to another. Thus they have ecclesiastical perversions like, the Pope, the archbishops, cardinals, vicars, presbytery, chief apostle, reverend, reverend doctor and many more such abominations. The corruption is so complete that hardly anyone thinks about the biblical terms of leadership in their true context. The perverse has become commonplace and the truth is now peculiar.

Please note that in the apostolic era of the Church, a “Preacher” does not oversee the affairs of a local congregation and is never called "The Pastor." And bishops, overseers, pastors and elders are different terms for the same general type work - the work of guiding and directing the affairs of the body of Christ. These offices of divine assignments are predicated upon a man’s unique calling, reputation, Spiritual gifts, talents, anointing, sending and salvation. They were never meant to be used to divide or to have one man lord over another. The bible says, “For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” It is plain to see that God intends for His spiritual leaders to be subject to one another and to be of the same mind and of the same Spirit (1 Corinthians 1:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 14:31-39).

CONCLUSION

Believers who do not learn the thoughts and language of the original Apostolic New Testament Church will soon absorb the corrupt and perverted thoughts and language of the denominational churches. And like the Israelites in Nehemiah's day who began speaking the speech of Ashdod, Christians who are unaware will begin speaking the language of the false Church (Neh. 13:24).

Regrettably, this has already happened in Christendom. Many so-called mainstream Christian denominational churches have rejected God's ordained titles of service and leadership and have adopted the man-made abomination of “reverend” or some other variation of ecclesiastical veneration. Some

have verbally and doctrinally rejected the biblically sanctioned titles of “bishop” and “elder” saying that there aren't any “bishops” in their particular denomination. Well, there may not be any bishops in their church but I am sure that there are not any reverends in the Church of Jesus Christ (Mark 10:15).

I cannot understand why it is so hard for some of our so-called Christians to address a man of God by the description of his divine calling and purpose. That is essentially all that his titles entails. To address a man of God as “Bishop” or “Elder” is only to recognize God's divine calling on his life and his enslavement to Christ. It does not exalt him above anyone else. To the contrary, it makes him subordinate. (Galatians 5:13)

Let us resolve to call no man reverend (which is a title of exaltation). Let God alone be revered and let the redeemed of the LORD say so.

[For more detailed insights, request the Lesson on the Qualification of a Bishop]

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