

# The Weight of Reverence

I had a dream recently and woke up considering the weight of an aspect of life that is understood and baked into the context of the Christian walk, yet it's not always mentioned head-on. I thinking about our reverence towards God that He expects His children to embrace. There's a depth that is missing in society. We see it in our lack of respect for fellow mankind, institutions, and families. We can see it in the church. We see it, most importantly, towards God. The moment a person lacks an appreciation for who God is and our obligation towards Him, it all goes downhill. What sounds "old and cold" to one man is music to the ears of the one who understands its place and beauty. I've seen reverence in the lives of those before me, and it seems to be a fading beauty as time goes on (I'm sure every generation feels that way), but it doesn't have to be. It's not to be. There's a beauty seen in the one whose life is defined by grace, thankfulness, and reverence. After all - we're told, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." I find myself looking back at Moses' first interaction with God in complete amazement and respect: "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." I know Jesus calls us to approach Him, but I do not see these principles as contradictory. They are both to be understood in context. It's why Peter, crying at Jesus' knees, said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Here's what we mean by reverence - a profound respect for God. This crosses over into the term fear when used in the sense of deep respect and awe for God. It's to have an overwhelming feeling of reverence and admiration.

I use the ESV and did a search for reverence. Your NJKV or NASB (most use one out of the three) will include other passages. But here's the result from my search and I will simply comment on each passage with today's application:

**Leviticus 19:3** Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.

**Leviticus 19:30** You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.

**Leviticus 26:2** *You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.*

**Proverbs 13:13** Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.

**Ephesians 5:21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Titus 2:3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

**Hebrews 5:7** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

**Hebrews 12:28** Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,  
I first saw the term in Leviticus 19 (used more than once). I want to read this chapter with you. Take note of *when* the term is used and the *breadth* and *variety* of the chapter. Take note of the phrase: "*I am the Lord your God.*" See if you notice the classic passages reiterated in the New Testament!