

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
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(Proverbs 9:10 RSV)*



HONOR AND RESPECT

Malachi 1:6-9

In The Presence Of Greatness

- How can we keep ourselves from being unaware of God's greatness?
- Antonio Silveira, "In God's Kingdom there is a "Protocol of Honor". If you expect God's blessing you need to start by honoring God, respect his Word and behave accordingly. This includes respect by everything that is Holy, God himself, his Word, the Church and the men and women of God that he places on your path."

In The Presence Of Greatness

- **Proverbs 3:7-10 NLT** 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. 8 Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. 10 Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

In The Presence Of Greatness

- The Bible talks about “reverent fear” and honor. This is mentioned as a lifestyle since you do it by turning away from evil.
- Many people today expect to be blessed without honoring the Lord. Some others expect to be healed both emotionally and physically without having a reverent fear for the things of God.

In The Presence Of Greatness

- Honor and respect are qualities that indicate esteem, high regard, admiration, and acclaim. Although honor and respect are interrelated terms since they have somewhat overlapping meanings, there is a difference between honor and respect.

In The Presence Of Greatness

- Respect is a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.
- Honor, on the other hand, refers to higher respect and great esteem. To me honor deal more with character than achievement

In The Presence Of Greatness

- Last week we read where the nation of Israel had lost their love for God
- They didn't even know if God loved them, but they kept on with the religious exercises in hopes of obtaining God's blessing

In The Presence Of Greatness

- That loss of love led to the nation not respecting God, nor honoring Him
- There will be no blessing without true respect and honor for the greatness of God
- **Malachi 1:6-9 NIV**

You can stop seeing the things of God as worthy of honor and respect

- You can be just like the priests described in the book of Malachi because you still come to Church and you still do all things right but the question is; “where is your honor and respect?”

You can stop seeing the things of God as worthy of honor and respect

- The priests didn't even recognize it because it was a slow fade
- You call me father and you call me master or lord, but where is the honor and respect of those two positions?

What kind of response to his fatherhood does God want us to have?

- When God reveals Himself to us as Father, when he calls us to himself and adopts us into His family through faith in Christ, and gives us the Spirit of adoption, what does he intend for us to feel or what should be our response?

What kind of response to his fatherhood does God want us to have?

- He means for us to have a childlike reverence for his age, strength, wisdom and authority – who He is
- He means for us to have a childlike security and peace in his love, provision and care for us
- It is so important God expects us to practice with our earthly parents

What kind of response to his fatherhood does God want us to have?

- **Exodus 20:12 NLT** “Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
 - Which implies, “Fathers, be worthy of the honor of your children. Be the kind of father who calls forth from your children not only a playful affection, but a deferential respect and honor.” – John Piper

What kind of response to his fatherhood does God want us to have?

- **Luke 11:11-13 NLT** 11 “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

What kind of response to his fatherhood does God want us to have?

- **John 14:27 NLT** “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.
- There was an inconsistency between having God as Father and treating Him the way the priests were treating Him.

Malachi's point is that they should show their utmost honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority, self-sufficiency and glory

- 8 time in verses 6-14 Malachi call God the “Lord Almighty” or “Lord of Hosts”
 - Hosts mean great numbers of armies or angels or stars

Malachi's point is that they should show their utmost honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority, self-sufficiency and glory

- Our Father in heaven has infinite authority in the universe
 - He can wield any and all armies on the earth to accomplish his purposes, whether they know it or not

Malachi's point is that they should show their utmost honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority, self-sufficiency and glory

- Our Father in heaven has infinite authority in the universe
 - He has myriads of unstoppable angels who do his bidding flawlessly and never fail in their tasks
 - He has appointed every star in the universe its position and holds them in place by name

Malachi's point is that they should show their utmost honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority, self-sufficiency and glory

- Our Father in heaven has infinite authority in the universe
 - God is not dependent, nor does He need anything from us

Malachi's point is that they should show their utmost honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority, self-sufficiency and glory

- **vs. 10 NLT** “How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “and I will not accept your offerings.”
 - Close the temple. I don’t want the smell of your sacrifices.

Malachi's point is that they should show their utmost honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority, self-sufficiency and glory

- **Psalms 50:9-10** NLT 9 But I do not need the bulls from your barns or the goats from your pens. 10 For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it.

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- **Acts 17:24-25** NLT 24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.

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- God's name will one day be revered and held in highest esteem by every nation of the world and in every place on earth – glorified

Malachi's point is that they should show their utmost honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority, self-sufficiency and glory

- **vs. 11 NIV** My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

Application - Human fathers and mothers

- Human fathers, alongside their wives, should represent a standard of truth and righteousness, authority, trustworthiness, tenderness and love that will win from our children both reverential esteem and tender affection
- Their children will come to understand most easily the mystery of the fatherhood of God

Application - Our relationship with God

- Our relationship with God should always mingle feelings of reverence and fear and awe on one hand with feelings of security and tenderness and friendship on the other hand
- **Psalms 25:14 NLT** The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.

Application - Our relationship with God

- **1 John 4:18 NIV** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
- It casts out cowering fear, paralyzing fear, hate-engendering fear, guilt-laden fear
- But not reverential fear or respect and honor

Application - Our relationship with God

- The experience that God holds out to us this evening is the deepest, most satisfying relationship in the world
- I pray we not be cowering or dumfounded or paralyzed in the presence of our merciful Father, nor that we be flippant or careless or trifling or presumptuous in the presence of our majestic Father

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."
(Proverbs 9:10 RSV)*



But rather that we discover, in the power of
the Holy Spirit, the mystery of godliness