

Reverencing Our Awesome God

Text : **I Sam. 12: 12-25**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Today we find ourselves in a circumstance much like Israel of old.

1. God has made America a great nation just as He had made Israel a nation.
2. He made us great because we upheld Christian values and revered God.
2. Now, by and large, we have turned our eyes away from God toward our prosperity.

B. As we choose our leaders, the primary consideration is who will enrich us.

1. Promises of prosperity get politicians elected though they advocate great moral travesties.
2. Foolish people believe that the government is the source of their prosperity.
3. In reality, it is God who raises up nations and who brings them down again.

C. By its hedonistic culture, America committing the error of the old fable;

1. We are “killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.”
2. To turn away from God is to turn away from the source of our blessing, of our greatness.
3. God give us the freedom to choose, but we must bear the consequences of our choices.

“Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not to their own facts.”

D. Sadly, Christians are being influenced by the world’s culture.

1. We live in a time in which respect is falling by the wayside.
 - a. For two generations parents have not taught their children to be respectful.
 - b. The lack of respect is causing major problems in the educational system.
 - c. People are increasingly disrespectful of the law and of officers of the law.
2. It is hard for people to show respect for others when they do not respect themselves.
 - a. Two generations have grown up with little discipline so they have no self-discipline.
 - b. They are slaves to their own bodies (urges, lusts) instead of masters of themselves.
 - c. The modern culture is to place self above all else.

3. When self is the highest value, it becomes difficult to submit to the authority of others.
 - a. Parents, teachers, police, civil, laws, GOD
 - b. When self is the highest value, it is hard to submit to GOD.

TRANSITION :

Thus, this lesson seeks only to remind us that our God is an awesome God who must be revered, revered, respected.

I. Christians must be careful not to be lead by their culture.

A. Culture is NOT from God.

1. Culture is simply the way most people in a given time and place think and act.
2. In most places are few people are Christians. (“few there be that enter”)
3. Thus, to conform to culture is to conform to the value system of the world.

B. Christians area admonished not to be conformed to the world.

1. **Rom. 12: 2-** and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. **I Pet. 1: 14-16** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I an holy.”

3. As Christians we are citizens of a different kingdom.

- a. We are called to be a special nation for God. ... **I Pet. 2: 9**
- b. Our citizenship is in Heaven. ... **Phil. 3: 17-21**
- c. As Christians live in America, it is as resident aliens. ... **I Pet. 2: 11**

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts
which wage war against the soul. (**We are people from a different culture.**)

C. If we are indistinguishable from our friends and neighbors, we are not “called out.”

1. One clear distinction between a Christian and the world is his attitude toward God.
2. The difference should be noticeable and easily observable.
3. **Basically, if we have to tell someone we are different, we aren't.**

D. Christianity is about one's heart.

1. The Christian lives by faith. **Gal. 2: 20**
2. Faith changes the way a person lives. **James 2: 18**
3. When the Jews demanded a king, they revealed their hearts.
 - a. They professed to be God's people, but they rejected God.
 - b. They did **not** reverence, respect, fear God.

II. God is worthy of reverence and demands that He receive it.

A. Even the unbelievers often recognize that God is worthy of respect, fear, reverence.

1. Relate the story of Daniel and the Lion's den.
2. **Read ... Dan. 6: 23-28**
3. **Reverence , respect, and fear are not just words or even outward actions.**
 - a. Daniel demonstrated his reverence for God by putting his life on the line for it.
 - b. **Compare :** **Isa. 29: 13-** Then the Lord said, “Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote, (cf- **Matt. 15: 8-9**)

B. God has always commanded His people to reverence, to fear and to respect Him.

1. **Read ... Lev. 10: 1-3**
 - a. Many a legalist have used this to strike fear in any who would disagree with them.
 - b. Verse **3** is the key to understanding. (**God demands that He be revered.**)

c. They were judged for disrespecting God. (**God remains the same. Respect Him.**)

2. **Read ... Lev. 19: 14, 32**

3. God's desire for us to be reverent remains the same today.

a. **Read ... Titus 2: 3-5**

b. Notice how he defines reverent behavior in **verses 4-5.**

c. **To be reverent, one must sincerely strive not to offend God.**

* C. Reverence is learned through a study of God's word.

Psa. 119: 38- Establish Your word to Your servant,
As that which produces reverence for You.

III. Reverence for God affects every aspect of our lives.

A. Reverence for God motivates people to obey Him.

1. **Mal. 2: 5-** My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him
as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name

2. The Apostle Paul expresses this in the form of a command.

Phil. 2: 12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as
in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

B. Those who worship God must do so in reverence.

1. **Psa. 2: 10-11** Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning,
O judges of the earth. ¹¹ Worship the LORD with reverence
And rejoice with trembling. (**True worship is a manifestation of heart.**)

2. **Psa 135:20-** O house of Levi, bless the LORD;
You who revere the LORD, bless the LORD (CF- **JOHN 4:24**)

C. Reverence for God motivates people to serve God.

1. **Heb. 11:7-** By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

2. **Heb. 12:28-** Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

3. **How .. 13:1ff** .. love, hospitality, prisoners, marriage, covetousness, leaders, etc

D. Reverence for God affects the way we treat other people.

1. Reverence for God prevented Israel from treating countrymen harshly, even bondservants.

Lev. 25: 43- You shall not rule over him with severity, but are to revere your God.

2. Those who exploit the poor disrespect God.

Prov. 14: 31- He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker,
But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

Compare : **Matt. 25** ... God correlates the way we treat other people to Himself.

3. We submit to each other out of reverence to God.

Eph. 5: 21- and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

CONCLUSION :

A. Our culture influences the way we express what is on our hearts.

1. Every country has its own way of doing things.
2. Every generation is different from the one before.
3. Technology, advanced communications and increase mobility affect our habits.

B. However, culture can never be allowed to determine to values of our heart.

1. God looks at the hearts of people.
 - a. People can only see the actions that manifest the hearts of men. (Can be deceived)

- b. People are influenced by the actions of others. (**Matt. 5: 14-16**)
- 2. He is interested more in WHY we do what we do than in HOW we do it.
- 3. Remember Nadab and Abihu.
 - a. They were struck dead for WHY they offered strange fire on the altar.
 - b. They disrespected God rather than reverence Him.
 - c. Men saw their actions, but God saw their motives.

C. God still looks past people's actions into their hearts and judges their motives.

- 1. Jesus demonstrated this attitude while ministering to the Jews. (Quots .. **Isa. 29: 14**)
Matt. 15: 8- This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.
- 2. When men are just going through the motions, God knows **why** they are doing it.

a. **Heb. 4: 12-13** - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

b. Compare ... **I Cor. 4:5 , Rom. 8: 27 , Acts 1: 24 , Luke 16:15**

D. God wants the hearts of man to love and to reverence Him.

- 1. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
 with all your soul and
 with all your mind." **Matt. 22: 37**
- 2. **When we have learned to love God totally and completely, the common disrespectful attitude will be replaced with reverence.**
- 3. We may express that reverence differently, but express it we will.
 - a. Like the Apostles, we will not be able to restrain ourselves. **Acts 4: 20**
 - b. Our lives will be changes.
 - c. People will notice the change and be drawn to Him who changed our lives.

A & M

INVITATION :

