

Giving Reverence

Part 2

By Larry Kennedy

Paul's teaching on marriage in Ephesians 5:33 revolves so closely around Christ and His church that we cannot, with a scalpel, separate marriage and Christ's marriage to His church—nor would we wish to! Here He instructs the wife to revere her husband. She does so by serving, giving, physical union, and being yoked together with her husband's dreams so that they become hers as well. There is ample evidence of her reverence by her actions at home and in public.

On the other hand, some husbands are held in awe at how long they can lay on the couch and watch T.V. "What are you doing, Honey?" she asks. "I'm showing reverence to you, Honey. Can't you tell? I'm exuding reverence. Do a 'Vulcan Mind-Meld' and you'll see it in my thoughts!" How many people in churches for worship today require God to read their minds in order to find out if they revere Him? Don't make Him read your mind! Respond with joy to what He is doing in your life, family and market place. If you are unable to see it, repent for your hardness of heart! Give Him that which is due Him: your whole self; your mouth speaking and singing in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs—making melody in your heart. He deserves it. He is worthy of it! Give Him your mind, your will, even your emotions. Worship is not some mind trip where we must approach Him with disinterest, without passion. He says, "Delight yourself in Me (Psalm 37:4)." That in which we

delight, we give ourselves to wholeheartedly. We are not speaking of duty as much as sheer enjoyment of loving our Lord.

On most occasions in which the characteristics of reverence or fearing God are attributed to people, it sound like this in God's Word: "They feared God and (fill in the blank)." God hears those who fear Him and do His will. Simeon was righteous and devout (or reverent) towards God and kept His commandments. Job fears God and turns from evil.

Let us revere God and give Him "the glory due His name." Let us respond in like manner to the loving touch of our Bridegroom as He blesses us, His church, His bride, with more and more revelation of how good He is and how worthy He is. He is worthy to receive from us as many different responses as His overwhelming love beyond measure would elicit. Let us unashamedly, extravagantly, offer up our expressions of love in spirit, soul, emotions, mind, will, and posture. Let us offer our bodies as living sacrifices. "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, for our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28)."

A God who is likened unto a consuming fire must be worshiped consummately and passionately, not dispassionately. Jesus said of His constituents, "these people worship Me with their mouths but their heart is far from Me." God spoke through the prophet Hosea and with great pathos said, "I don't want you offerings (religions, rituals), I want you to know Me; I don't want you sacrifices . . . I want you to love Me (Hosea 6-8 TLB)."

Will He not be revered more by those willing to unashamedly and passionately express their love to Him in ways which are appropriate to the ways in which He is, moment by moment, covering, nurturing, protecting, healing, sanctifying, and transforming us into a bride who really reveres her husband—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

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