

## Examining Our Attitudes In How We Approach God

I. Introduction: *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created”* (**Revelation 4:11**).

A. God is worthy [due reward] (**Psalms 29:1-2** and **Psalms 113:1-3**).

1. For He is the Creator (**Psalms 8:1**, **Isaiah 40:25-28**, **Jeremiah 10:10-12**, and **Hebrews 11:3**).

2. When we think about our place as the created... **Psalms 8:1-9**

3. Think about the role upbringing has in these things (**Deuteronomy 6:1-7**).

B. Do we want to find ourselves guilty of knowing God, but not glorifying Him properly (**Romans 1:21**)?

1. What if we get too casual in our relationship with God? If respect becomes disdain (**Ezekiel 22:1-2; 22:8**)?

2. Consider that we, because of Christ, can come before God (**John 14:6** and **Hebrews 10:19-23**).

3. Think about how those of old would have long loved that privilege (**Psalms 65:1-4**).

4. Think about how they were warned in approaching God (**Ecclesiastes 5:1-2**).

5. Let's examine ourselves in these things (**I Corinthians 11:23-32**).

II. Body: **Hebrews 12:28-29**

A. The Greek word translated “reverence” [αἰδώς] in **Hebrews 12:28** means: “(The idea of downcast eyes); bashfulness, i.e. (towards men), modesty or (towards God) awe: A sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect” (Strong's # 127).

1. The only other time that Greek word appears in the New Testament, it is translated as “shamefacedness” (**I Timothy 2:9**).

2. Think about approaching God with modesty, respect, awe, honor, bashfulness, etc. (**Psalms 4:3-5**, **Psalms 68:3-4**, **Psalms 95:1-7**, **Psalms 96:7-9**, **Psalms 138:6**, **Isaiah 66:1-2**, **Luke 18:9-14**, etc.).

3. If Jesus walked in here today (we know that's not going to happen), would you act differently (**II Corinthians 13:5**)? Why? Why not?

B. Not just in our first day of the week assembly either (**I Timothy 2:8-10**).

1. Applying principles taught long ago (**Jeremiah 7:1-15**).

2. Not a show in any setting (**Matthew 6:1-7**).

C. If we understand the principles of honor and respect (i.e. **Hebrews 12:9**).

1. Respect the elder among us (**I Timothy 5:1-2**).

2. Honor all (**I Peter 2:17**).

3. Honor mother and father (**Ephesians 6:2**).

4. HOW MUCH MORE FOR GOD?

D. Consider **Malachi 1:6-14**

1. We're God's children (**Galatians 3:26-29**), honor Him as our Father!
2. God wanted the first-fruits (**Proverbs 3:9**), not leftovers (**Luke 21:1-4**). Is God getting our best; first; most (**Colossians 3:1-4**)?
3. As God's children, we won't get preferential treatment or special pardons (**I Peter 1:17**).
4. Don't be weary of well-doing (**Galatians 6:9**).
5. Would we want to be like those who took no delight in God's will (**Jeremiah 6:10**)?
6. Do we want God to view our worship as He did those who erred in the past (**Amos 5:21-23**)?

III. Conclusion: *"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him"* (**Psalms 89:7**).