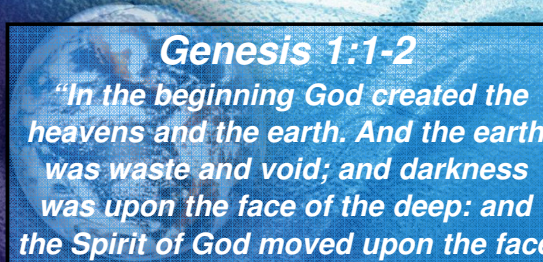




**Reverence –
The Substance of Worship**

***“The heavens declare the
glory of God!” (Psalms 19:1)***

1



Genesis 1:1-2

***“In the beginning God created the
heavens and the earth. And the earth
was waste and void; and darkness
was upon the face of the deep: and
the Spirit of God moved upon the face
of the waters.”***

Man has often been a fool! cf. Romans 1:20ff

2

Commanded to FEAR God

- Angel said, “... with a great voice, **Fear God**, and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:7
 - “*phoberós*: to fear, be afraid; absolutely to be struck with fear, to be seized with alarm ... to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience” (Thayer)

3

Commanded to FEAR God

- Exodus 3:5-6 “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for **the place whereon thou standest is holy ground**... And Moses hid his face; for he was **afraid** to look upon God.”

4

Commanded to FEAR God

- Luke 23:39-40 “And one of the malefactors that were hanged railed on him, saying, Art not thou the Christ? save thyself and us. But the other answered, and rebuking him said, **Dost thou not even fear God**, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?”

5

Commanded to FEAR God

- Hebrews 12:28-29 “Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with **reverence and awe**: for our God is a consuming fire.”

6

What Is Worship?

"To express by attitude and possibly by position one's allegiance to and regard for deity - 'to prostrate oneself in worship, to bow down and worship, to worship.' *'for we saw his star in the east and we came to worship him' Matt 2:2.*" (from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

What Is Worship?

"to make obeisance, do reverence to ... It is used of an act of homage or reverence to God" (Vine's Expository Dictionary)

What Is Worship?

"Courtesy or reverence paid to worth; hence, honor; respect. Act of paying divine honors to a deity; religious reverence and homage." (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

Reverence is defined as "a feeling or attitude of deep respect, love, awe and esteem, as for something sacred; veneration." Synonyms for reverence are "honor, veneration, awe, adoration." (Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary)

Proper Worship Is Vital

"I will extol thee, my God, O King: and I will bless thy name forever and ever" (Psalms 145:1)

"Holy and reverend is thy name" (Psalms 111:9)

Proper Worship Is Vital

Psalms 2:11-12, "Worship the LORD with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way." (NASV)

Psalms 5:7, "But as for me, by Thine abundant lovingkindness I will enter Thy house, at Thy holy temple I will bow in reverence for Thee." (NASV)

Jesus, taught the disciples to address God reverently, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9).

Proper Worship Is Vital

1 Corinthians 14:40 "But let all things be done decently and in order."

Examples of Worship

- Matthew 2:11 – At His birth Magi came to worship Him.
- Matthew 28:9 – After His resurrection.
- Revelation 5:14 – After His ascension.
- More than profession: 2 Timothy 3:5 – *“holding a form of godliness, but having **denied the power thereof**. From these also turn away.”*

Lack Of Reverence In Worship

Lack Of Commitment

- Irregular in attendance.
- Late – No preparation.
- Other things take precedence.

No Seriousness.

Texting / Checking messages / Playing with the babies / In and out.

Lack Of Reverence In Worship

Lack Of Quality.

Songs so common we don't think about the words ... hurry up.

Not a time of drudgery.

Psalms 2:11-12, “Worship the LORD with reverence, and rejoice with trembling.”

Psalms 9:2, “I will be glad and exult in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High.”

Psalms 9:14, “That I may show forth all thy praise. In the gates of the daughter of Zion I will rejoice in thy salvation.”

Lord's Supper

Prayer

Singing

Teaching

Giving

Reverence is Respectful (cf. John 4:24)

1 Corinthians 14:40
Let all things be done decently and in order.

Casual Worship

- Definition: “happening by chance : not planned or expected : designed for or permitting ordinary dress, behavior, etc. : not formal : done without much thought, effort, or concern, relaxed and unconcerned.” (Webster)

Casual Worship

- “Also, I love that there are cafes everywhere you turn! Who doesn't love drinking coffee with friends in a place filled with love? It makes church feel like a community gathering instead of a ‘Go in, sit down; be quiet’ feel, which is what I was raised with.”

Casual Worship

- “Not only does it fulfill everything I was looking for, they also have a beautiful campus and they cater to coffee lovers! They have an actual Starbucks Cafe in what is called 'The Cafe Sanctuary' which is a smaller sanctuary for those who prefer a smaller setting where they can view the sermon on a big screen.”
- “Pastor _____ always starts by saying a joke. He is out of this world.”

Casual Worship

- Review Definition: “happening by chance : not planned or expected : designed for or permitting ordinary dress, behavior, etc. : not formal : done without much thought, effort, or concern, relaxed and unconcerned.” (Webster)
- What about our attire?
 - We are in the presence of Majesty! (Unique occasion). cf. Joseph in Genesis 41:14
 - *Genesis 35:2-3*, “*Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and **change your garments**: and let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; and I will make there an altar unto God.*”

Reverence Is To Be Taught To Our Children

1. Insist that children behave in worship.
2. Insist that children participate.
3. Insist they show respect.
4. Order their schedules around worship.

Conclusion:

Let us not "profane" our worship by taking that which is holy and treating it as common.

- May our dress and practice in worship reflect the attitude and character of one who truly **fears God and holds His holy name in reverence and awe.**
- Let us bring the best we have in attitude, dignity, respect, and character as we worship God.