

Viewing God's commands with Reverence

Obeying God's commands - Reverence

- **God is to be held in reverence, regarded as holy**
 - **Lev. 10:3** – Nadab and Abihu did not do this
 - **Psm. 89:7, Heb. 12:28** – Reverence and fear are not the same thing
- **God's commands must be given the same regard**
 - **Deut. 4:2, Rev. 22:18-19**

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- **Four categories of commands that the world tends not to hold in reverence, regard as holy or binding:**
 - **Regarding sexual conduct**
 - **Regarding marital relationships**
 - **Regarding worship**
 - **Regarding salvation**

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- **Regarding sexual conduct – I Cor. 6:9-11, I Thess. 4:1-8**
 - **Fornication – pornos – physical sexual interaction between unmarried**
 - **Some teach this involves other non-interactive sinful conduct – this is wrong!**
 - **Adultery – moichos – physical sexual interaction involving married individual(s)**
 - **Homosexual – malakos – effeminate**
 - **Sodomite – arsenokoites – sexual interaction with those of the same gender**

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- **Regarding marital relationships – Matt. 19:1-9; I Cor. 7:10-11**
 - The question: “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”
 - The answer: “Have you not read...therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”
 - Means “should not”, un-Scriptural divorce is still divorce, see I Cor. 7:10-11
 - So often, brethren try to come up with “what-if’s” and “how-about’s

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- **Regarding worship – John 4:24**
 - **Confusing specific commands of worship:**
 - **Lord's Supper, contribution – priority**
 - **Prayer – often seems overly showy**
 - **Song – instruments**
 - **Teaching – non-distinctive, “feel-good”**
 - **Organization, work of the church:**
 - **Institutions, benevolent programs**
 - **Attitude regarding worship:**
 - **Internet, TV church**
 - **Desire to be entertained**

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- **Regarding salvation: Acts 8:12**
 - **Belief – Mark 16:16**
 - **Repentance – Acts 2:38**
 - **Confession – Acts 8:37**
 - **Baptism – Acts 22:16**
 - **Newness of life – Rom. 6:4 (Jas. 1:25)**

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- **There are several reasons why people reject these commands:**
 - **Emotion – Relationships, feel-good services, what my parents believed, God wants me to be happy...**
 - **Conscious or sub-conscious desire to construct own standard of righteousness**
 - **Refusal due to own desires, rebellious or stubborn nature, too lazy or stubborn to discipline oneself enough to obey**
 - **In the end, it is still each person's choice: there will be no excuses at Judgment...**