

God's Command for Women to be Reverent in Behavior

When I first read this title, I pictured ladies in high necked, long sleeved dresses with hats and gloves; heads bowed and mouths closed of course, this is not at all the right idea! Reverent behavior deals, not so much with our outward appearance, as with our inward attitude. If we have the proper reverence for God inwardly, then it will show in our outward demeanor.

Reverence is the right fear of the Lord which leads to obedience.

This fear includes awe, praise, and worship. There are many examples of reverent women in the Bible. I even saw an ad for a tee shirt recently that read;

Sacrifice like Esther

Love like Ruth

Serve like Martha

Pray like Hannah

Believe like Mary

Dance like Miriam

Each of these women exhibited great faith, perseverance, reverence, and worship. This is what we need to aspire to. How can we accomplish this? It's not something that occurs naturally. It requires intentional focus on daily study, obedience, and practicing God's Word.

Study the Bible

Personal Bible study is so important! How can we obey God if we don't know Him and what He expects of us?

2 Timothy 2:15 tell us to study to show ourselves approved

Romans 10:17 says faith comes from hearing...the Word Of God

Titus 2:3-5 tells us to be reverent, not to slander, to teach good things to be examples to younger women

1 Timothy 2:9-10 says we should be modest in dress and adornment, but more importantly, do good works

Proverbs 9:10 says that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding

Over and over the Bible tells us we need to learn all we can about God and His teachings. How do we accomplish this? Corporate worship is a good start. Sunday

School and the pastor's sermon provide good information, but we also need to get into the habit of spending time alone with God's Word and God Himself

In his study, Twelve Extraordinary Women, John MacArthur gives the following definition of a disciple. "A disciple is literally a person who receives instruction from another person. Unlike an average student, a disciple in Jesus' time learned from a master teacher by living in close proximity to the teacher. That way, a disciple learned not only what the teacher said, but saw how a teacher applied his own teachings to real-life situations. Disciples not only learned concepts, but application of concepts. The disciples of Jesus were those who walked and talked with Him on a day-in, day-out basis; learning not only what He

said and did, but how He spoke, when He acted, and the methods of application He used in dealing with various people and situations.”^Q

Our lesson today asks some very thought provoking questions:

1. How do you carve out special time with God?
2. When you're alone with God, what do you do?
3. How much focus is on God?/How much on you?
4. Think about your prayer life. Is it unhurried or rushed?

I'll let you answer these for yourself.

Obey the Word

The second point today is obedience. Once you know God's Word, you need to do what He asks.

Hebrews 4:12 says the Word of God is like a two edged sword...a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.

Obedience is more than just doing tasks automatically. God wants us to work for Him from our hearts. His will should be our first concern because He is our first love.

Exodus 20:3 says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

Revelation 2:4 says He should be our first love.

Knowing God's Word and obeying it leads us in the right direction toward reverent behavior. Obedience can't just be when we feel like it; we must practice it daily.

Practice the Word

Once you begin to study God's Word and work at being obedient, you need to put into practice what you have learned.

James 1:22 says we are to be doers of the Word, not hearers only.

The more we love Him and practice obedience, the more He will use us.

In today's world, it's easy to be swayed toward all the meaningless "to-dos" we think are so important. Compare how much time you spend on social media/ tv shows, etc. with how much time you spend doing God's will. If you're like me, the balance isn't good.

There is no shortcut to spiritual maturity. We should be growing daily through study, prayer, and obedience.

Elizabeth George, in her study, *Growing in Wisdom and Faith* says,

"There is a chorus in a long-loved hymn, dear one, that shows us the way to a life of friendship with God. Hear it's sweet words.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full on His wonderful face.

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace.

When we turn our eyes upon Jesus, we won't be interested in the small trinkets that the world offers. When we turn our eye upon Jesus, we'll be consumed with Him— the light of His glory and grace instead of consumed with them—the pale things of the world. When we turn our eyes upon Jesus, the small things will cease to matter, for then we will be utterly absorbed in Him, our precious Savior.”

All of the knowledge in the Bible means nothing if we don't share it. Remember, be doers of the Word. Work at displaying the Fruits of the Spirit wherever you are.

In another Bible study group I was in, the following was given to us as a challenge:

An Ordinary Christian Life exhibits the following;

FAITH – Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 it is impossible to please Him without faith

Sanctification – 1 Peter 1:13-15 be holy as He is holy

Fruits of the spirit Galatians 5:22-23 love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

Repentance and forgiveness Psalm 51:17 God will not despise a broken and contrite heart

Careful stewardship of our words James 3:8-10 Ephesians 4:29 out of the same mouth proceed blessing
And cursing

Gratitude and thanksgiving 1 Thessalonians 5:16 rejoice always

Hospitable lifestyle 1 Peter 4:7-9 Hebrews 13:1-2 have love for one another

Generous lifestyle(not just money) 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 15 1 Timothy 6: 17-19 God loves a cheerful giver

Sincere concern for others Mark 12:30-31 Philippians 2:3-4 love your neighbor as yourself

Desire and willingness to share the Gospel 1 Peter 3:15 sanctify the Lord God in your hearts

Perseverance Romans 15:5-6 may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like minded

WORSHIP OF THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD Psalm 103 Bless the Lord, oh my soul; and all that is within me
bless His holy name

If we work every day at achieving these goals , we truly will be reverent women!