



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: Is it scripturally acceptable to refer to my minister as "Reverend"?

Answer: No. The title is assumed to exalt them above the average member or to designate them as being unusually holy, above sin or having special privileges. In some cases, it may very well be a vanity trip or the stroking of ego, entailing social amenities.

We should inquire as to attitude proprieties being exercised. In your Bible, the word "reverend" is found once (Ps. 111:9) and states that, "*Holy and reverend is His (God's) name.*" It is never used in referencing man!

Christians are to "*be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble*" (I Pet. 5:5). We are to "*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself*" (Phil. 2:3). We must not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think (Rom. 12:3). This includes religious leaders as well. The apostles were not called reverend. Diotrephes, we read of, sinfully "*loved to have the preeminence among them*" (3 Jn. 9). Which of the above categories best describe those who bear such titles?

We are to "*speak as the oracles of God*" (I Pet. 4:1). In denoting men as "Reverend", we are not thus speaking. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Rom. 12:23), and faith comes from the word of God (Rom. 10:17). God's word does not designate any man as being reverend! Therefore, to assume such a godly distinction is not in keeping with the scriptures. Humility forbids its acceptance!

For inquiries or free Bible study by mail, contact:



New Albany Church of Christ

*P.O. Box 148, 511 Hwy 15 S ~ New Albany, MS 38652
nacoc.org ~ 662-534-4649 ~ bibletalk.mlk@gmail.com*

