

entering into the presence of God (Psalms 100), as David stated, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of Jehovah" (Psalms 122:1). When Christians gather to worship God they must do so with reverence, the same attitude of respect and awe that was exhibited by Isaiah when he stood in the presence of the Lord.

To worship God acceptably the Christian must participate in each of the acts of worship, that is, singing, praying, partaking of the Lord's supper, studying God's word and giving (Colossians 3:16; Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 16:1-2), while following the one who is leading the worship according to God's directions. While worship to the eternal Father is being engaged in, it is not the time for frivolous activities. A Christian who talks with one sitting close by, or writes notes or draws pictures, entertains children seated around him, reads a book or the church bulletin, fixes finger nails, chews gum and blows bubbles, or engages in activities of like nature shows disrespect to Jehovah God. Not only do they show disrespect to Jehovah but they show disrespect to the worshipers seated around them by disturbing and distracting them as they are engaged in worshipping God. **Irreverence in worship is a sign of an unconverted heart.** No one can be a faithful Christian and fail to worship God as he has directed. Acceptable worship must be in spirit (from the heart) and truth (according to God's word, John 17:17). It is not possible to worship God with the heart if we have it attuned to other activities.

Children are very precious and should be brought to the worship services of the church at a very early age. When they are very

young, parents can begin teaching and training them in the proper attitude of worship. As they grow older they should be taught that the worship service is a time of seriousness, not a time to play or run about the audience while services are being conducted. During the worship activities parents can teach and train their children in the concepts of worship and reverence.

The Christian's conduct in worship is very important; it can enable him to worship God in spirit and truth or it can render his worship vain. As God's people assemble, may they always remember the purpose of their gathering is not to entertain others or be entertained by others. When Christians assemble to worship God they, as Isaiah was, are in the very presence of God for the purpose of adoring, honoring, praising, him and to edify (build up and encourage spiritually) other Christians. May our worship always be characterized by reverence.

# Reverence in Worship



Published by:

*Tracts For The Nations*  
2128 Crystal Ct.  
Cookeville, TN 38501

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