

## Man of God syndrome

Respect and honor for ministers is not something that is foreign to the body of Christ. We need to have respect and honor for the ministers of God. This is happening without doubt, but in some countries or cultures more than others it is way abused and exploited and misunderstood. Respect is a two-way street. It goes up and respect must go down as well. Men and women of God ought to have respect for the people below them as well. We are not to speak to them in a belittling or disrespectful way, trash or step on them. Even more, they should never demand respect. Respect is earned, not demanded.

Because of lack of understanding, some believers have not been hearing from the Lord themselves and have turned to men and women of God to do this for them. They have delegated one of the most vital part of their relationship with God which is hearing from Him. This was never intended by God in anyway. I have seen in the body of Christ as some ministers or men of God becoming the Holy Spirit of people and mediators between God and man. Ministers are not middlemen between God and man. Jesus was the only mediator, and He did that job well (1 Timothy 2:5). Too late!

This teaching is geared to help put the greater emphasis on the Word of God rather than the man or woman of God.

### From “by the prophets to “by His Son”

Hebrews 1:3 *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

- a) “Sundry times” comes from a Greek word which was translated to mean “in many portions”

(Strong's Concordance). The way God spoke to the folks in the Old Covenant was parts and piece. It was incomplete, occasional, and periodic.

- b) God Speaks. This should be a settled truth.
- c) He also speaks in divers manners—many different ways.
- d) In the “past”, He spoke by the Prophets. Prophets did not speak of their own volition.
  - i) This makes their words, words of God.
  - ii) God speaks through people.
  - iii) 2 Peter 1:20-21“*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*”
- e) We are in the last days even more if at this writing of Hebrews, Paul called it the last days.
- f) God spoke by the Prophets in the past, but He has now given as an **upgrade** and has **spoken to us through the Lord Jesus Christ, not through the Prophets or the men of God.** We have more than the prophets or the men of God. We have been elevated and exalted to a place higher than the prophets.
  - i) We do not need a double portion. That would be too little we already have an infinite portion through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- g) God does not speak to us under the new covenant in “Sundry times” as in the Old Covenant. He has completely and full spoken to us through revealing His Son Jesus.
  - i) The revelation of Jesus we have in the New Covenant is far superior to one of the Old Covenant. The New covenant revelation is complete while the Old Covenant Revelation was incomplete—not inaccurate.
- h) We have a **better covenant** that changed everything and all things. Thank you, Jesus!

## Man of God Worship

Acts 10:25-26 *And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. 26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.*

- a) Here Cornelius fell down and worshiped Peter. This was horribly wrong. Men and women of God (ministers) should not be exalted to such a place. A place of worship is reserved and belongs to Jesus alone and none other. No man is worthy of worship except Jesus—who was God and Man. We may not use the words worship but the way we treat these men of God is worship and, in some cases, better than we would treat Jesus.
- b) Man of God worship or the super-duper worship is not a biblical concept and should be rejected and shunned.
- c) Cornelius elevated Peter to a place he did not belong. This happens in the body today as well especially in some countries/cultures. People tend to worship “super” ministers that God has used to change their lives for the better. When they meet them, many do not know what to do and they do foolish things like Cornelius did here.
- d) This ignorance has given birth to cults as well and some ministers taking advantage of people.
- e) No matter the gifting and how anointed a man of God is, he should NEVER get to a place of even thinking about worshipping him. This is dumb!

If you are too impressed with the man of God, it is because you have not spent enough time with Jesus. The more you spend time with the Lord and get to know Him the more you will be impressed by Him more than any man or woman of God.

## Angel worship

Colossians 2:18 *Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and **worshipping of angels**, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,*

a) Some people have gotten off to worshipping angels which is error. Angels are not to be worshipped. John made the same mistake, and he was quickly corrected by the very angel he was trying to worship (Revelation 19:10).

i) Revelation 19:10 *“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

b) Men and women of God should not allow people to fall and worship them—or even be exalted to a place so high that they do not belong. They may not use the words “I’m worshipping you”, but that is what they are doing.

Example:

I saw a video clip where a minister was seated in his white chair in his white suit, wearing his white shoes and people were coming and falling down at his feet, touching or even kissing his shoes. Guess what? He did not do what Peter did to lift the people up and ask them to stop it. He sat there and received all the worship.

c) Peter lifted Cornelius up from the ground and made it clear to Cornelius that he was a man like he was.

i) Just because I’m a minister, in Christ, I have the same footing as another person no matter how inferior others may look.

ii) We were both bought by the same blood and made the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus.

iii) He did not deserve worship. Only God did.

d) Peter lifted him to his rightful place, not keep him below him. This is what some ministers do. They will keep or put people below them and never lift them up, but a good minister ought to lift people to where they belong, and not keep them down.

i) A minister is a servant. We should be seeking to be served rather than be exalted and worshipped. We need to not exalt ourselves higher than we really are.

Men have a tendency wanting to “*worship*” others especially when they are in authority. Ministers or not, they have like passions as the rest do (Acts 14:15; James 5:17). They are of the same nature as we have regardless of the anointing of God on their lives. None of them deserves worship. Men don’t worship men, but God. This has to be remembered lest we set them on pedestals and be tempted to overly exalt them.

Men of God have their place, but they have been exalted so high that some of them have started to control and manipulate the body. Some keep people ignorant of certain truths hence using, controlling, and manipulate them.

For instance, I heard a so-called man of God that was married who lied, used, manipulated, and controlled a devoted loyal but ignorant young church girl. This may be shocking and hard to believe to some of you, but these things are true. They exist in some parts of the world.

You need to develop your personal relationship with the Lord and the Holy Spirit. You need to replace your so-called “papa” or “man of God”. Believers need to learn and mature to receive and hear from God by themselves. They do not need to consult their Pastors and men of God to get a clearance or approval to do things such as:

- a) House to buy
- b) Who to marry?
- c) Car
- d) Start a business or not

You can get guidance and counsel from spiritual leaders, but the ultimate call is yours—between you and the Lord. No other man of God is called to be the one to dictate your life and make these decisions for you, not even to OKAY them after only which you can then proceed. There is only one Lord and He is not your pastor, man or woman of God. **People need to hear from the Lord themselves and this should be the encouragement from the ministers and leaders.**

God never intended any man regardless of the anointing on his life to be *Junior Holy Ghost* or *junior God*. Ministers have to point people to God, His Word and His Holy Spirit, not to themselves. They should teach them, and let them learn to receive and hear from God directly.

A misunderstanding of this powerful and liberating truth has in return give some of these ministers too much control and authority in the lives of the sheep and people which has led to control, manipulation, and domination. This has also in return stifled the people’s intimacy, growth, and relationship with the Lord because there is a middleman who has a need to be needed.

## Jesus put things in the right priority

*There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. 32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. 33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? 34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.*

—Mark 3:31-35

The family of Jesus thought they had special privileges and access to Him more than others. They were stunned. Jesus' brethren had not believed on Him yet. Traditions of men and culture exalts Mary above everyone else and all women.

Luke 1:28 and 42 *“And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”*

The Word says she was highly favored *among*, not *above* women.

Jesus was not dishonoring His mother or brethren. He simply elevated us who have believed on Him on a level higher than His physical brethren. What a deal! This should silence and destroy any “*Mary worship*” or over exaltation. Mary and Jesus' brothers were not demoted. We who believed on Him were simply promoted.

Those who have believed on Jesus (do the will of God) are His brother, sister, and mother.

Galatians 4:16 *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”*

## A leader available and Present among the People

*Acts 5:12-13 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.*

- a) Miracles, signs, and wonders were done by the hands of the apostles. As we stretch forth our hands to heal, the Lord is stretching forth His hand through us to do those miracles.
- b) In the early days of the church, the apostles were almost the only ones doing miracles, but later we saw the none apostles such as *Phillip and Stephen do miracles*. These were deacons, not apostles.
  - i) This showed and proved that miracles were not limited to just apostles but all saints as John 14:12 teaches.
  - ii) Mark 16:17-18—Miracles are for all believers, not just the chosen few such as the clergy or the super duper. They are not simply for men of God nor should they be the reason for them to be puffed up and highly exalt themselves.
- c) When the people saw that the apostles were being used mightily in miracles, signs and wonders, none of the rest durst (dared) to join themselves to the apostles in performing signs and wonders.
  - i) *Why?* They magnified or exalted them highly and greater than themselves. They saw them better, holier, closer to God, bigger and more useable for God. In other words, the church and the common people disqualified themselves.
  - ii) Reason? Because they were doing signs and wonders among the people and the Lord has given these to be done by all believers. They thought the apostles were higher than them and these signs, wonders, and miracles were restricted to only them which was not true.
- d) The “common believers” did not have the boldness to step up and step out to do the miracles, signs and wonders. No one had stopped them.
  - i) They lacked the spine to step up and do the miracles and in so doing, the people created a division or separation between the clergy super dupers and the common man. This ought not to be so because God sees every believer as a minister who the fivefold— apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-12) need to **equip** to do the work of the ministry including signs and wonders.

- e) The equipping or fivefold offices should never have been lifted to a place as the only ministers in the body where the common people come to serve, support and receive from their ministry.
  - i) It was never meant for the clergy alone to be used mightily while the other people just come to clean, do basic works and receive from the clergy. Being called in the equipping offices (fivefold) is not superior to the rest of the body. These offices have a role of equipping the saints rather than “man of God” worship.

## Takeaways for ministers—men and women of God.

1. Ministers should **not allow themselves to get magnified higher** than the people lest they see themselves above and higher than the people.

This is a **temptation that every minister must resist** as it makes one feel superior to others and before you know it, pride has crept in and next is a fall or destruction.

*Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

- a) As a result of this, the man or woman of God that received this esteem higher than the people will:
    - i) Limit their availability to the people.
    - ii) Will separate themselves
    - iii) They become and see themselves as untouchable.
  - b) One of the reasons for the need of this separation by ministers is that some are afraid they will be discovered.
    - i) They will be seen for who they really are. Their weaknesses and imperfections will be revealed.
    - ii) “*Never meet your hero!*” —Rick McFarland.
2. There is nothing wrong with serving and honoring a man or woman of God (1 Thess. 5:12-13, 1 Peter 5:3), but this should never be demanded, and they should not be overly esteemed.



3. Ministers need to reject and resist the temptation to be untouchable. We should not seclude ourselves from the “common” people. This is a common practice in some cultures more than others nonetheless it ought not to be so. Jesus our best example was not like that. He was available and among the common people, yet He was used greater than any man. His availability among the people did not affect His anointing. People touched Him without being stopped by His body guards the disciples.
  - a) He certainly did not eat alone in a “green room” in the name of protecting His anointing but ate with the common people, the sinners, and the publicans.
4. Ministers need to understand that honor must go down and shown toward the people not just up to them.
  - a) Ministers are not there to be honored, but rather to serve the people. We need to be servant-leaders.
5. Ministers should reject being magnified (esteemed highly) by the people because they are used in and visible ministry such as a pulpit ministry.
  - a) *John 6:14-15 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.*
6. Ministers need to help all believers understand that they are ministers as well and can be used by God mightily without being behind the pulpit or holding a microphone.
  - a) People have a tendency to think that those on the pulpit are better, more righteous, much holier and more used of God than they are or can be. This is a lie. We all have the same standing before God that is based on faith in Jesus.
  - b) Ministry is not teaching and preaching the Word. It is serving. It is a lifestyle we live. Many in ministry are not in ministry and those we consider not to be in ministry are in ministry. Teaching and preaching are just a small part of ministry.
7. Ministers need to learn not to think ourselves above what is written in the Word of God concerning us (1 Corinthians 4:6). We should not be puffed up above others.

## Role of the minister of man of God

1. Ephesians 4:11-12 *11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*
  - a) There is more to the gifts and the offices that God has given to the body. The ones in Ephesians 4:11-12 are not **superior** to the rest of the gifts or better.
  - b) All gifts are different and have a part to play in the body of Christ. No gift is superior to another.
  - c) Equip the saints, not whip the saints.
  - d) Perfect the saints, not pervert the saints. Perfect means to mature, not manure. This perfecting is for the saints to be able to do the work of the ministry.
  - e) Edify, not terrify.
  
2. Romans 12:3-8 *4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*
  - a) Many members

- b) One Body
- c) All members have not the same office.
- d) Many, yet one body in Christ
- e) Everyone member of another which makes a body. We are not individual or independent parts. **We are not the body parts of Christ, but the Body of Christ.** Huge difference!
- f) We have gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us. They are different from each other because they are according to the grace that God gives each of us.
- g) Even when we have gifts that are seemingly similar, they are still different because they have a different grace on the individual.

Run your race (Hebrews 12:1), not another man's.

You are graced by God according to the gift He has given you. You do not have the grace for my or another person's gift, but yours. Therefore, do not try to do what I'm doing unless this is your gifting. Discover yours. It is in you. There is a discovery process to your gifting and calling.

"Ministry" gift is speaking of *servicing* or *attendance*. From the Greek word "diakonia" means ministry from which we get the word "deacon" that means attendance or serving. Ministry is not preaching or teaching. Ministry is a lifestyle, not a microphone. Ministry is serving others, hence the ministry gift.

I remember recommending a student to go serve under another senior pastor/ministry. This guy quit in a little while because he wanted only to preach and teach. He said for him he was called to preach and teach, not do all this non-preaching, and teaching tasks, administration, and other servitude tasks. He was shortly fired. This young man had a wrong mindset of ministry. There is more to ministry than just preaching and teaching the Word.

Everyone who serves is doing ministry and is in ministry, not just preachers and teachers of the Word.

3. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the*

*interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

4. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 *27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.*

- a) Apostles
- b) Prophets
- c) Teachers
- d) Miracles
- e) Gifts of healings
- f) Helps
- g) Governments
- h) Diversities of tongues

The answer to the questions being asked about all is, NO!

5. 1 Peter 5:2-3 *2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

- a) Feed the flock of God, not feel. Notice these are the flock of God.
  - i) Feed them the Word of God. Teach the new covenant truth—preacher **gospel** and demonstrate the power of God.
  - ii) John 21:15-17 *15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.** 16 He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** 17 He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he*

said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, *Feed my sheep.*

- o A minister that truly loves the Lord, will feed His sheep. Love produces a servanthood heart.

iii) Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

b) Oversight (Oversee).

c) Examples to the flock.

i) 1 Timothy 4:12-13 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

6. Christ-like to the flock

a) Pray for the flock—*not* prey on the flock. Philippians 1:3 *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,*

b) Heal

c) Point the flock to the Father.

d) Teach the flock the Word of God.

## Titles

Paul the apostle. Notice his name followed his function or office.

Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

I heard a story of a guy who came late to a dormitory where all these guys were laying down close to each other. There was hardly any room for this guy to lay down, yet all the guys would not move over to make room for him. He called as many as he could by first name. No one would move. No answer! Silence! Suddenly, this guy started addressing them as “man of God” guess what happened? Immediately many of these guys begun to make room as he addressed each as *man of God*. These guys had a **man of God syndrome**. They would only respond if addressed as such. To these guys, the person that was calling them was not “respecting the anointing.” Have you met people like this or are you one of them?

Having a title as a man or woman of God or demanding it does not make you one. You do not need a title to change a life of another person. **If you are effective, you do not need titles.** Titles do not make you effective. Titles do not add value to you if you are not effective. Yet, you can also be effective without titles.

*“When you are effective in life, you reduce yourself to your first name.”* Myles Monroe.

Jesus did not have a title, yet He was more effective than any man who ever lived. There are many men and women of God that have changed the world without a title before their name such as Andrew Wommack and so forth.

We need to recognize that that our titles, positions, accomplishments do not make us better than others. There is a difference between what we do and who we are. Leadership, titles, positions we hold, nor better performance all do not make a better person. It's very possible that a person's character can be severely wanting even though his performance is good, have titles, positions or are in a position of influence and leadership.

### Submission?

I have met some folks that have accepted this in the name of submission. They say, “I am submitted to this man of God,” but this is not submission but rather control of the people's lives. This is a perverted kind of submission. Submission is not having another man or woman of God take the place of the Holy Spirit and be telling you what to do or become your point of contact. Thinking that every initiative of your life should not be okayed by a man of God is not the true meaning of submission.

Let me end with another story. A young man shared with me his plans to marry a certain sister that was serving and going to another church. She asked him to meet the man of God and his leadership which he did but shortly after that they told him that for him to marry that lady, he had to go and “submit” to the man of God at that church. This meant he had to leave his church and attend and also serve under this man of God. The young man had no peace about this at all, neither did I. I told the young man that with all due respect, that is not the place of the man of God. This is control and manipulation. He should not be the one telling her and yourself that you must submit to that church and the man of God. This directive and leading only must come from the Lord. Anyway, it was crazy pressure, and this was straining the relationship because the lady was very submitted to her “man of God” and was not willing to let him go for the young man that was wanting to marry her. This was all in the name of submission to the man of God. The young lady sided with the man of God and shortly, that relationship ended. This relationship could not have worked even if they had gotten married. This was what I call the man of God syndrome. The young lady had caught it and was suffering from it. I know how to cast that thing out. This relationship had three people in it and the third one was not God, but the man of God and it failed. You must hear from the Lord and you cannot delegate it.

Rich Kain