

Welcome

Welcome by the grace of God.

Thank you for joining us. We want this to be a safe place for you to know and experience God's love and grace. If we can help you on the next step of your spiritual journey, please contact us.

Today we recognize Scouts and the blessings Scouting brings not only to our congregation but our community, nation and world. Since the beginning of the Scouting movement, faith has played a major role in character development of Scouts. "The purpose of the Boy Scouts is...to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness," while "The mission or purpose of Girl Scouting is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens."¹

We're blessed to be led by members of our Cub Scout packs 34, 803 & 1230, Boy Scout Troop 34, 232 & 233, and Venture Crew 34. Welcome to family members and scouts from other churches and faiths. We affirm the young men and women of our church and community and their leaders. We invite you to pray for them as they learn and grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

¹ <http://www.raytrygstad.com/personal/preacher/ascoutisreverent.html>

A Scout's Prayer² (modified)

O God, make us Trustworthy, for there are those who trust us.

Make us Loyal, for through loyalty we reach our highest ideals.

Teach us to be Helpful, for through helpfulness do we forget our selfishness.

Make us Friendly, for there are so many who need a friend.

Train us in Courtesy, for courtesy is the carpet on life's floor.

Make us Kind for kindness is the oil in the cogs of life's machinery.

Insist upon our Obedience, for victory comes only to those who obey.

Make us Cheerful, for cheerfulness is the green grass among the rocks in the path of life.

Train us in Thrift, for thrifty habits brighten our future.

Make us Brave; brave in the dark and brave in the light; but save us from becoming fakers in bravery.

Help us to be Clean – clean in thoughts, speech, and deed. And may we remember that our bodies are your holy temples, and that any abuse is to tamper with your Great Plans.

Above all, O God, help us to be Reverent toward all things which you have made when we are in your great out-of-doors, among the trees, along the streams, and on the hillsides. May we know it was you who made the waters to flow, the trees to reach heavenward, and the mountains to endure to all ages.

In all these things we ask that you help us. And may we never forget the covenant you made with us through Jesus Christ, so that we may live and walk with you always.

Amen

² <http://scoutermom.com/4680/scouts-prayer-lord-badenpowell/>

Message: Be Reverent

What's reverence? If you Google the term, you'll find reverence is a noun meaning "deep respect for someone or something." Synonyms are high esteem, high regard or appreciation. If you asked your friends and family, that's pretty much what you'd find. I think it's a helpful definition, but it's incomplete. The Bible shows us why.

What's the Biblical definition of reverence? There are two primary views of "reverence,"³ found in the Old and New Testaments. The first view expresses our attitude toward God. Fear and awe are synonyms. We're in awe, and afraid, of God's majesty, power and love because it's supernatural and beyond our ability to understand.

The second view of reverence expresses our relationship to another person; someone we consider superior. Honor, respect, adoration and deference are synonyms. We show our respect by what we say and in our actions; for example, bowing as a sign of respect or coming to attention when the Scout sign is given. That's deference or reverence.

Two images come to mind when I think of reverence: the first is a young girl, standing on the side of a swimming pool, wanting to jump into the water and arms of a loving parent, but she's afraid. The second image is familiar to hikers. Have you ever climbed a hill, seeking a summit, only to reach your goal and find that it was a "false summit"? The true peak was much higher and further away that you could see or imagine from the base of the mountain. God is like the parent, urging us to "jump in, I'll catch you." God is also like the scoutmaster or patrol leader, who encourages us to continue on to that distant summit even when we're tired, thirsty and discouraged. The trip and the goal are worth our effort. Our relationship with God is what makes the difference.

Why is reverence important?

Reverence is important because it gives us a way to navigate the highways and byways of life. Our relationship with God is unfailing and eternal. All we have to do is believe in God's love and trust Jesus to have a full life. With God's love filling us, we're guided as we grow physically, mentally and spiritually. That's reverence in action.

³ <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/reverence/>

Reverence led John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Movement, to live by three simple rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. They're good rules for all of us to remember. They teach us how to live with reverence.

How are we to be reverent in our daily lives? Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting, says it simply, "Scouting is nothing less than applied Christianity." Paul teaches us, "*be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ*" (Ephesians 5:21). That helps us in our relationships. Jesus showed love and respect, even when others humiliated him in public. When we show honor and respect to people, deferring to them in the same way we love and respect Christ, we're sending our family, friends and co-workers a message of love and care. What a great way to do good!

Peter asks, "*Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord*" (1 Peter 5:13). Peter is saying, don't be overcome by fears and anxieties of things like politics, the economy, school work, sports or celebrity lifestyles. If you make a place in your heart for Jesus, you have a stronghold to rely on and turn to when things worry you, when things go wrong or when you do harm others.

After all, we all have a bad attitude some days. When you do, turn to Jesus in prayer. He loves you. We all say hurtful things. When you do, ask Jesus to give you the courage to say you're sorry. We all do things to others out of spite, to get even, or as a practical joke. When you do, ask Jesus to forgive you, apologize and make it up to the other person, particularly if you did it publically. It isn't easy, but that's what reverence means.

Reverence for God calls us to live respectfully in all aspects of our life; our body, mind and spirit. We're to be clean and pure. There's a lot of unhealthy material only a click away on the Internet. Avoid them. Fill your heart and mind with good things by reading the Bible. Be wise. There are a lot of false statements spoken as truth today. People say a lot of negative things about God, Jesus, the Bible, the church and Christians. Some of them are deserved; the church is made of broken

people who have done wrong at times. But I believe many statements are made out of a lack of knowledge or understanding. I encourage you to get a Bible, read it and pray, then make your own decision.

Peter give us a reminder of why we care for others out of reverence, *“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called - that you might inherit a blessing”* (1 Peter 3:8-9).

I pray we all will be a blessing to others as we go out into our community today with reverence.

Psalm 112:1-9 (NRSV)

Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments. Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD. Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (NRSV)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.