

16 December 1992, Evening Sacrifice Londrina, Brazil

Worldly Customs

[Yoneq gave a word of instruction to the Brazilians:]

A minute ago, Yadon said to me, "Hello Signor." I said, "What are you calling me Signor for? I'm Yoneq!"

Paul the apostle was an apostle but no one called him 'father'. Our Master said we have one Father (Mt 23). We ought to merit our own respect in the Holy Spirit and not from an outside custom that the world needs in order to command respect. In the world they need those forms of addressing one another to be respected, but in the edah we don't need that because we have respect — we have the Holy Spirit. (Mt 23:7-10) We don't say, 'Hello teacher Yoneq,' 'Hello pastor Yadon'. Our 'Rabbi' told us not to do that for "only One is your Teacher and you are all brothers." And don't call anyone in the church or on the earth 'father'. So everyone who does, violates the word of God (Jn 8:51). Is Mt 23:8-10 His word? (So therefore everyone in the Catholic Church is going to death, every last one along with those in the Protestant churches also.)

It is wrong to call people by the titles of their gifting: 'father so and so', 'evangelist Graham' (he is an evangelist, but he's an evangelist for the devil.) And don't be called Master, signor, adoni. No one in the edah is to be called 'signor'. The customs of the world are not to come in here. We don't need outside influence to have respect since we have respect because we have the Holy Spirit. I'm not the lord, YAHSHUA is the Lord. Don't call me lord. Ha-emeq refuses to be called 'Donna Ha-emeq' — She's not a lord, is she? Signora, donna, don, owner, Master. You are not to be called master or leader for you have one Master and one Leader — the Messiah.

It will take a while for you to get out of this custom but we need to conform to the word. When talking to outsiders we can continue to use 'Mr', 'Signor', etc. to show respect to them, but in here we do not use it. If we do not have respect, we do not get respect. If we do not have authority, we do not get it. Authority is only given and recognized by our Father in heaven.

[Someone asked if our children should use these titles?]

It seems our children should respect us for who we are. Our name is our respect and that is all we need to use. If you are 'Derush', that name commands the greatest respect and admiration of any name that can be named after YAHSHUA. Derush is the most honorable name because he named the edah 'Derush'. I don't have to say, 'the respectable Derush'. He is respectable. And Shachar is respectable for the marvelous dignity she has in our Master YAHSHUA and our children ought to respect her for the marvelous servant she is.

I think we can have the same respect without that exterior thing. On the outside world we can use it, to show respect when we are dealing in their culture. But in here, we have our own culture.

It gets into a clergy/laity system where you exalt your teacher and not your other brothers. We all have respect; we all have the Holy Spirit. We merit respect because of the dignity a person has. Double honor does go to some, but you don't just give someone double honor if they don't merit it — that would just be form. We are hypocrites if we have respect for some and not for others. We are to treat each other as extensions of Messiah Himself in His Body — each with the same respect with which we would treat Him. We honor our Master YAHSHUA — we love Him and admire Him and are thankful for Him. But also He wants us to respect each other as He lives in the Body in His Spirit. What would YAHSHUA do without a Body. It is so important that the Body functions under the head. Discordant people cannot rule in the next age with Messiah because they are not building the Body.