



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: Vertical Communications

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Our previous study addressed horizontal communications, interacting with peers/team members. Of greater significance is our interaction with those above us in position and influence. Have you considered the importance of your communication with God Almighty, who is in control of your next heartbeat?

INTRODUCTION

Leaders, team members in the Capitol have become accustomed to working in a political environment. Government officials are elected or appointed by others in leadership. Popularity is important to an elected official. Note that most adopt an informal version of their given name: Sam, Jeff, etc. Do we address a leader by their given name or by their title?

ADDRESS LEADERS RESPECTFULLY

Romans 13:7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.¹

Forms of address are ways that we show respect, even honor. These include the complimentary terms Sir, Mister, Madam, or Ms. Among the terms that connote personal accomplishment are Doctor and Mrs. There are many terms that refer to position or rank. Examples include Captain, Director, Representative, Senator, and Governor. There are guidelines for use of these terms.² However, salutations are determined by our **relationship** with the one being addressed. **The setting is also a factor** in use of a salutation. If unsure, the safe approach is to show respect and leave it to the dignitary to correct you. Please note that we are admonished to treat everyone with dignity regardless of position, not being partial (James 2:2-4).

ADDRESSING GOD ALMIGHTY

Exodus 6:2-3 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am Jehovah: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; but by my name Jehovah I was not known to them.³

God Almighty is the proper term to use when addressing the Sovereign of the universe. However, our relationship may allow us to use a more personal salutation. Moses served the Lord God in a day-to-day working environment, rescuing the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. Jehovah was the more personal name that was given for Moses to use (Exodus 3:15). Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, and to begin by addressing God as Father, a term of endearment (Luke 2:49). Jesus further clarified this as He departed, returning to heaven: "I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and to your God" (John 20:17). We can establish this relationship by acknowledging that we have not lived in a manner worthy to be called a son, accepting the fact that Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross, enabling us to start anew (John 3:16-18). This internal action secures your adoption into Jehovah God's family and connects you with the spiritual power needed to transform your life (Acts 2:38-39).

CONCLUSION

We have touched on protocol for addressing dignitaries in the human and spiritual realm. Perhaps these notes will help keep one or two readers out of trouble. In the optimum, this will help you gain the favor of God and man (Luke 2:52)!

A PRAYER

Father God, help me to mature into a better daughter or son so that I will grow in favor with You and these others that are in this season of my life! Please strengthen me for the challenge. I pray in the Name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (Good News Publishers). 2001.

² Webster's, New Riverside University Dictionary. (Houghton Mifflin Co.) 1984. p55.

³ The Holy Bible, American Standard Version. (Public Domain). 1901.