

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

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**On May 14, 2013, we received the following inquiry:**

“In Revelation why doesn’t Jesus ever bow to the Father and worship him? And it says in John to honor Jesus just as we honor the Father. And in the places in which we see the word "obeisance" in the New Testament, the term in the Greek and concordances renders the term "worship." And if the translation should be rendered worship and not obeisance, then why, when these individuals "worshipped" didn’t Jesus correct them? I’m not saying this is how we should render these verses. But I have learned to be very cautious when looking at an English translations, specifically one with as many indiscrepancies as in the [New World Translation of the Bible, published by the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society]. Although I know this may not be evidence enough to say we should perform an act of worship to Jesus, the question is, how else do we honor Jesus "just as" we honor our Father? Why is the Greek term used for "worship" sometimes used as "obeisance" without any indication to do so in the Greek format? I admit were this essential to salvation, perhaps Jesus would have told us plainly, but it is curious.”

To the author, thank you for your email. The matter of our relationship to Jesus Christ and our relationship to the Father is an important one, and it can be a little confusing. We believe the reason for the confusion is that people in general do not understand ‘Deity.’ We have for some time wanted to write an article explaining this matter, but other matters seemed to take precedent. However, we are now pushing it up the list. We may have to write that article before we complete the Truth Symposium. At any rate, we will answer your specific questions now and let you know when we publish the article on Deity.

You asked why some Bibles interchange the words obeisance and worship. We are not scholars in Greek or Biblical lexicology, but we believe the reason for the confusion is that the translators did not understand the fine distinction between the two. When we look at the plain and open teachings of Jesus, we can discover that distinction.

Obeisance is defined as: (1) a movement of the body expressing deep respect or deferential courtesy, as before a superior; a bow, curtsy, or other similar gesture; (2) deference or homage: The nobles gave obeisance to the new king. ‘bowing down.’ It is customary in some countries to bow before nobles as a gesture of respect. However, bowing down is not the same as worship. Notice:

“For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every [other] name, so that **in the name of Jesus every knee should bend** of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground, and every tongue should **openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord** to the glory of God the Father.” – *Philippians 2:9-11*

Yet, Jesus was very adamant about not worshipping him:

"Then Jesus said to him: 'Go away, Satan! For it is written, **"It is Jehovah your God you must worship**, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.'"

– *Matthew 4:10*

This tells us that bowing down and worshiping are not the same.

Worship is more than a respectful courtesy. It has to do with adoration, reverence, and soul submission. You might want to see our articles **The Mustard Seed** and **Worshiping with Spirit and Truth**. These articles discuss the nature of worship. And after you have read those articles, if you still have a question in this regard, please feel free to write gain.

*“Elaia Luchnia”*

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