

## **"I Myself Also Am A Man"**

When Peter came to Joppa to preach to Cornelius, Luke wrote, "... *Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him*" (Acts 10:25). Seeing the reaction, "*Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man*" (Acts 10:26). One wonders if the Pope would say the same to people today?

If you didn't know, there are actually specific directions or "protocol" for someone meeting the Pope. First, one must address him as "Your Holiness" or "Most Holy Father," no matter your religious affiliation. Second, you must make a low bow, or go down on one knee when being presented to the Pope. Once again, this is expected, no matter your religious affiliation. Third, if someone is a Catholic, they must take the Pope's right hand and kiss his ring. A non-Catholic is permitted to shake the Pope's right hand.

Jesus said something very opposite of the religious world regarding this subject. In Matthew 23:8-11 He said, "*But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.*" These are clear-cut instructions for no one to address a preacher or evangelist as "Father" or "Reverend." Service to Christ is based on humility, not exaltation. Matthew 23:11-12 furthermore reads, "*But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*" The religious world has elevated certain people over others, but this is wrong. God's word constitutes a pattern which must be followed!

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