

OMG Doesn't Mean "O Majestic God!"

I need to share a concern with my fellow Christian Facebookers, MySpacers, Pleonasters, Twitterers, texters and other social media types. "OMG!" doesn't mean "O Majestic God" or "O Magnificent God." It is not a means by which God is honored. It doesn't even mean "oh my goodness." When people read that, they see and hear in their minds the phrase, "Oh my God."

Please recall that under the Old Covenant one of God's 10 laws was, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7). God's name was to be held in honor or God would curse His people (Malachi 2:2).

The New Covenant demonstrates the same principle of honor for God. I Timothy 1:17 says, "To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." Revelation 4:11 says, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." In Revelation 7:12, the angels, elders, and living creatures cried out, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

I'm seeing a trend that concerns me among Christians online. More frequently I see Christians use texting shorthand for taking God's name in vain—"OMG." I just want to ask you to think before you type that shorthand on your computer. If you typed the longhand phrase, "Oh my God," would it be appropriate? Would you think this use of God's name was intended to honor Him, to give Him glory and praise?

Certainly there are times when saying "Oh my God" is appropriate. We have songs that use that phrase. As we pray, we may praise God by calling out to Him, "Oh my God." We are recognizing that He is our God; we are not. We are recognizing that He is our God; money is not. We are recognizing that He is our God; idols are not.

However, when someone has said something surprising or said something that really resonates with us and we want to accentuate it simply by typing, "OMG! That's amazing," are we really calling on God, honoring Him? Were we even addressing Him? Or were we just taking His name in vain because it was so easy and everyone else does it?

God's name is not meant to register our surprise, our shock, our amazement. God's name is meant to be held in honor, to bring glory to Him, to address Him.

Please think about this before you type your next update. Let's honor God in our speech and our online posts. He deserves it.

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