

Do Not Be Called Rabbi



Scriptures

- **Matthew 23:8-9**
⁸But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.
- **Mark 6:2-6**
²When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. ⁴Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives and in his *own* household." ⁵And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And He wondered at their unbelief.'
- **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**
¹²But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, ¹³and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.'
- **1 Corinthians 4:15**
¹⁵For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
- **Hebrews 13:17**
¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Other Scriptures

- Ephesians 6:2
- Matthew 19:19
- Ephesians 4:11
- 2 Timothy 1:2
- 1 Peter 2:17

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Main Points

- Rabbi is simply the word for teacher in Hebrew
- Respect for authority is important in the Kingdom of God
 - The anointing you respect is the anointing you will receive from
- If we walk under the authority of God, and show honor where honor is due, we will be blessed.
- It is important not to take scripture out of context
 - Scripture interprets scripture

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss whether or not it is right to call your earthly father, “Father.”
2. What are the dangers of taking a scripture like Matthew 23:8-9 literally and using it as the only argument to support a doctrine?
3. How does Mark 6:2-6 support the statement that the anointing you respect is the anointing that you receive from?
4. Why is it so important to respect and honor authority?