

Conclusion - Our Relationship with Angels

Through Scripture, God has revealed the reality of angelic beings. In fact, He has even used them in the process of revelation. As with all other supernatural activities, the only such activities we can assert without reservations as being genuine and from God are the supernatural activities that we see in Scripture—only the Bible accurately discloses or reveals the supernatural to us. Therefore, we must be careful to determine what our relationship with angels should be in light of this truth, and not the experiences of men.

A. Our relationship based in our position

As believers we are granted much without any merit. Though we do not belong to the heavenly (*elohim*) class of beings, God has granted us the right to be counted among the class of His children, the sons of God. In a spiritual sense, believers are God's immediate creation, since our coming to faith in Christ is God's work. We have been granted a position "in Christ," Who now is far above the angels (Ephesians 1:20-21; 2:5-7). However, we do not yet share in the exercise of Christ's position and authority, this will be in our future (1 Corinthians 6:3).

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:20-21

20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 2:5-7

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:3

Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?

B. Our relationship based in their position

Though angels are a greater class of beings than fleshly humans, we are not to worship them. The worship of angels is specifically forbidden, and we must be aware that the worship of anything or anyone other than God is sin.

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Colossians 2:18-18

18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

Exodus 20:2-4

2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.
4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

Matthew 4:10

Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”

This does not mean that we have license to mistreat angels or to be disrespectful to them, even fallen angels. That we should be respectful of angels is seen in the example of godly men. Daniel was at awe of Gabriel, he feared and showed great respect to the angel (Daniel 8:16-17; 10:1ff).

Daniel 8:16-17

16 And I heard the voice of a man between {the banks of} Ulai, and he called out and said, “Gabriel, give this *man* an understanding of the vision.”
17 So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end.”

Our respect for angels needs to be in light of who God is, understanding that these great beings (angels) are God’s tools in effecting His will.

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

How is it that angels “minister” to us? We are not told all the details, which leads us to believe that it does not matter. All we need to be aware of is that God has tasked angels with this work. We do not know when specifically God uses angels to bring about something regarding God’s will, but we know that He can. We ought to recognize this and be grateful that God uses such superior beings on our behalf, even though we do not deserve it.

What are the angelic activities today? Certainly angels are involved in worshiping God. The cherubim do that all the time in God’s presence, as possibly do the seraphim too. The angels who are messengers are still ministering to us, however, not by carrying God’s message to man. Since the completion of the New Testament, and during the rest of the church age, God is not using angels to bring His message to men because revelation is complete. If an angel were to speak to a person at this point, whatever the angel were to say, could not be trusted as from God because no more revelation is being given at this point. Therefore, the work that angels are involved in now is very

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real but not visibly evident to us. God may use angels to provide us the way out of sin (1 Corinthians 10:13), or to protect us from Satan and his angels (2 Thessalonians 3:3). We just don't know and don't need to know. What we need to know and be thankful of is that God is in control and actively seeking our well being.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*.

Angels are God's servants not ours. We are not to call them or command them to do anything. We are to respect them and be at awe that God loves us so much that He uses even the greatest beings of His creation to care for us. How great is God's love for us!