

...Very Politely

From the Preacher's Desk:

A trainer at Sea World was once asked how they trained the killer whales. Her reply was, "We don't *tell* them to do anything; we *ask* them...very politely."

It is easy to understand how one could have and maintain such great respect for the animal which is at the top of the food chain in the ocean. They are very big, very fast, and very intelligent. The idea of demanding anything from such a being is laughable. And yet God told the man whom He had created to have dominion over the fish of the sea. (One might wonder if there ought not have been a disclaimer added to Genesis 1:26 for animals that are measured in tons instead of mere pounds.) Even so, common sense would indicate that respect would be needed.

If you think that making demands of a dominant predator would be unwise, how much greater the folly when one begins to make demands of the Creator of All. At first you might think, "No one would dare do that." Ah, but think again. Habakkuk is known as the prophet who questioned God; this generation may eventually become known as the generation who demanded of God. The truth is, every time that we decide that our way is better than God's way, in essence a demand is being made for God to accept our way. Look at a few examples:

- When the worship offered to God differs from what He has proscribed in the New Testament (for example, instruments of music in worship or women in leadership roles), a demand is being made to the Almighty to accept what is offered.
- When a sin becomes commonplace (for example, theft, murder, or slander), a demand is being made to God to accept that activity.
- When lifestyles are varied from the eternal law of one man and one woman for life (for example, adultery or homosexuality), a demand is being submitted to Jehovah to accept that things that man has deemed "alternative."
- When the attitudes which humble service to Christ requires (forgiveness, charity, and longsuffering) are usurped by detrimental hearts (envy, ridicule, and pride), a demand is being placed upon the Father to reckon those things as accepted.

Even though you might not often think in those terms, that is what is taking place: a demand is being made to a Being who is much bigger, much stronger, and much more intelligent than we are.

The solution: we ask of Him. His Word will inform us of what is accepted and what is not, remembering with godly fear the position we hold within His creation. Pray to Him, inquire of Him, but most of all, accept and respect Him. And when what we want does not coincide with what He demands of us, we recall how the trainers treat the killer whales: *very politely*.