

Fear of God Outline

- I. Introduction:
 - A. My own journey in the Lord.
 1. An outsider-not raised in a Christian home.
 - a. Experienced the reality of God in college-found no answers
 - b. Wife to be challenged me.
 2. Made the commitment without the understanding of what comes with the commitment.
 - a. My first church experience-no Bible?
 - b. Kolmensberger-wife in adultery-he went crazy.
 - c. Meridith Twining-adultery, dies of cancer.
 - d. Don Hensley-only wanted to know if I want baptized.
 - e. Bill Frisbie-adultery
 - f. Dave Clardie-personal life and family a mess.
 - g. Church board meetings-division and hateful.
 - h. Mike Bickle-children a disaster, surrounded by willful open sin. No discipline.
 - i. Paul Cain-manipulated by flattery.
 - j. Bob Jones-child molester.
 - k. Mark Hendrickson-wicked man seeking power and position.
 - l. Ernie Gruen-runs off with secretary.
 3. People in the church.
 - a. Man in porno-J.W.
 - b. Wife/mother neglects children for soaps.
 - c. Pastor's son abandons wife.
 - d. Christian parents want daughter to have an abortion.
 - e. Worship leader addicted to internet porn.
 - f. Church board member steal and is not removed from the board.
 4. Is there any way around this? There must be something better.
 5. What is the problem? Lack of internal transformation.
 6. At the heart of this is the lack of the fear of God.
 - a. Say a prayer of confession but do not deal with the internal condition of the heart.
 - b. Expect to live for God without a broken will and complete submission.
 - c. Not having the equipment to deal with the evil that is all around us. Evil Days-Ephesians 5:15-16 the days are evil.
 - d. Exaltation of self-young adults conference brochures.
 7. There are three kinds of Christians-only one is real.

- a. Cultural Christians.
 - b. Sacramental Christians.
 - c. Regenerate Christians.
8. Even among regenerate Christians, the fear of God is lacking and violation of Him is rampant.
 9. Watch out-not talking about legalism. This is just another form of not fearing God. Talking about an internal transformation of the heart and mind that produces an entirely new person who is moving toward the image of Christ.

II. The Fear of God and prime motivators:

- A. After regeneration, the next thing the Lord wants to deal with in us is our motivations. He gives us new motivations. There are two motivators that God uses to produce his character in us:
 1. The love of God.
 2. The Fear of God.
- B. Good works that are produced out of other motivations than these are worthless to you, even though they may have some value in the kingdom of God.
- C. Not deal much with the love of God but I will deal with the fear of God.

III. The Fear of God

A. What is it?

1. Three myths about fear.
 - a. Fear is an Old Testament concept that was needed in order to control people because they didn't have the Holy Spirit yet.
 - b. Fear is something that God doesn't want us to have. We are to be free from fear.
 - c. We are more enlightened today so we know that fear works against people. It holds them back from who they are really meant to be. Inference-the Scripture is outdated because of what we know about human behavior.
2. Webster definition of fear:
 - a. Feeling of anxiety and agitation caused by the presence or nearness of danger, evil, pain; dread; terror; fright; apprehension.
 - b. Respectful dread; awe; reverence.
 - c. Feeling of uneasiness; disquiet.
3. Isaiah 8:12b "do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it."
 - a. Fear #1-yare (yaw-ray): morally revere; give reverence to; dread; frighten.
 - b. Fear #2-mora (mo-law): a fearful thing.
4. 1 Peter 3:14b "do not fear what they fear".
 - a. Phobeo: awe; reverence; alarm; frightened.

- b. Phobos: to put in fear; fright.
- 5. Literal understanding:
 - a. Do not be in reverence and awe of the things that make people afraid. We are not to fear the things that the unbelievers fear. But we are to fear.
 - b. What kind of fear should we have?

B. Fear commanded:

1. Deuteronomy 10:12 “And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all you soul...
 - a. The Lord asked Israel to fear him and to love him. Fearing him caused people to walk in His ways, and loving Him caused people to serve Him. We are also told how to love him.
 - b. These were the two desires of the Lord for Israel. As the spiritual inheritors of Israel, the Lord asks the same of us.
2. Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”
 - a. Ecclesiastes is written from the earthly point of view. Much is considered meaningless vanity; a chasing after the wind. At the conclusion of all this God says to “fear” Him and keep his commands.
 - b. Notice how the fear of God and the keeping of his commands are jointed together.
3. Revelation 14:6-7 “Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-to every nation,, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”
 - a. The first thing that is declared as part of the eternal gospel is to fear the Lord. This is in the New Testament and refers to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - b. When we fear Him we will give Him glory and worship Him.

C. What does fear of God produce?

1. Fear causes people to avoid some things.
 - a. What would the fear of God cause us to avoid?
 - b. How would this avoidance be helpful?
2. Fear causes us to respect some things?
 - a. What about God should we respect?
 - b. What about evil does the fear of God cause us to respect?
3. Fear draws us to things (places of safety).
 - a. Why do people watch horror movies?

- b. Would people watch horror movies if they were not in a safe place?
- c. What do we do when we are afraid of something? Answer: we look for safety.
- d. What do we do when we have the fear of God? We should look for safety in the Lord and his protective ways.

IV. The Three Revelations of the Fear of God.

- A. The fear of judgment
- B. Reverence and awe.
- C. The fear of missing his will.

Question # 1: Is fear a good thing:

Three myths about fear:

1. Fear is an Old Testament concept that was needed in order to control people because they didn't have the Holy Spirit yet.
2. Fear is something that God does not want us to have. We are to be free from fear.
3. We are more enlightened today so we know that fear works against people. It holds them back from who they are really meant to be.

Isaiah 8:12b "do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it."

Fear # 1-yare (yaw-ray): morally revere; give reverence to; dread; frighten.

Fear # 2-mora (mo-raw): a fearful thing.

1 Peter 3:14b "do not fear what they fear"

Fear # 1-phobeo: awe; reverence; alarm; frightened.

Fear # 2-phobos: to put in fear; fright.

Literal: Do not be in reverence and awe of the things that make people afraid.

We are not to fear the things that the unbelievers fear.

We are to fear.

Webster:

Fear: #1- feeling of anxiety and agitation caused by the presence or nearness of danger, evil, pain; dread; terror; fright; apprehension.

#2- respectful dread; awe; reverence.

#3- a feeling of uneasiness; disquiet.

Results of fear:

1. Fear causes people to avoid.
2. Fear causes people to respect.
3. Fear draws us to something (horror movies) (unknown).

Deuteronomy 10:12 “And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...”

The two prime motivators:

Fear of God-causes us to walk in his ways.

Love of God-causes us to serve him with all our heart...

Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

From an earthly perspective the duty of man is first and foremost to fear God. This is not necessarily the purpose of man but it is the duty of man.

Revelation 14:6-7 “Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.’”

It is the first statement of the eternal gospel

When we fear him, we give him glory.

When we fear him we consider all things in light of judgment.

When we fear him we worship his greatness not just his loving kindness.