

## Lesson 10 – Lasting Value & the Fear of the Lord

The wise woman is focused on pleasing God ,not people.

Proverbs 31:30

Charm (favour) is deceitful and beauty is passing.

Favour or charm = favour, grace, well-faroured.

Deceitful = untruth, a liar, false, a sham.

Passing (vain) means emptiness, transitory, and unsatisfactory.

Living to please others is a sham life, and emphasis on externals is empty and unsatisfactory.

Why is a life focused on externals empty and unsatisfactory?

Why is a life lived to please others a sham and a lie?

Galatians 1:10

I Thessalonians 2:4

\* \* \* \* \*

“When we base our security on success and others’ opinions, we become dependent on our abilities to perform and please others. We develop a *have-to* mentality: I have to do well on this exam (or my security as a good student will be threatened); I have to make that deal (or it will mean that my boss will think I am a failure); my father, or spouse or friend has to appreciate me and be happy with my decision (because I cannot cope with his disapproval).

We do not have to be successful or have to be pleasing to others to have a healthy sense of worth. That worth has freely and conclusively been given to us by God. Failure or disapproval of others cannot take it away. Therefore, we can conclude – it would be nice to be approved by my friend/spouse/whoever, but if they don’t approve of me, I am still loved and accepted by God. Do you see the difference?”  
The Search For Significance, by Robert McGee.

Questions for analysis:

- (1) How does the fear of being rejected/disapproved of by people in my life affect my life?
- (2) What things do I do to get people to approve of me?
- (3) List specific instances in which people in your life have manipulated you by criticism, silence, sarcasm, or praise to do what they wanted you to do.

The fear of people is contrasted with the fear of the Lord.

The wise woman fears the Lord.

Proverbs 31:30

Fear means - reverence, dread exceedingly. Therefore fear is a deep and abiding and awe-inspiring reverence for God.

The fear of the Lord is further defined in the Book of Proverbs and there is a progression throughout the Book.

The fear of the Lord is giving proper respect to God and His Word.

Proverbs 1:7

Despise = To disrespect.

The Fear of the Lord is to heed the discipline of God.

Proverbs 1:29-30

The Fear of the Lord involves coming to know God in a real and intimate way.

Proverbs 2:5

Knowledge = To know through the senses. To discover. It can be used to describe coming to know a familiar friend.

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Philippians 3:8-10

The Fear of the Lord is recognizing we need His wisdom.

Proverbs 2:3

e) The fear of the Lord is a growing realization of our own inadequacy.

Proverbs 2:1

f) The Fear of the Lord is departing from evil.

Proverbs 3:7

The Fear of the Lord involves a deeper knowledge of God.

Proverbs 9:10

The Fear of the Lord is a great treasure.

Proverbs 15:16

The Fear of the Lord is accompanied by humility.

Proverbs 15:33

j) The Fear of the Lord leads to life and satisfaction.

Proverbs 19:23

The Fear of the Lord means that we are not living to please others ultimately.

Proverbs 31:30

The Fear of the Lord results in reward and fruitfulness.

Proverbs 31: 30 & 31

Hebrews 11:6

### Summary:

A study of the fear of the Lord in Proverbs is a crescendo to a magnificent finish to our life.

It starts with

- (1) a willingness to hear and obey the Word of God as the authority in my life and
- (2) a willingness to turn away from our self and sin – heeding the discipline of God;

Which progresses to:

- (3) an increasing longing to know Him and a recognition that we need His wisdom;

And this is accompanied by

- (4) maturity in growing and departing from things that do not please Him;
- (5) as we grow in knowledge of Him and Who He is; and
- (6) a recognition that this is what is important and valuable in life;

All the while

- (7) humbly coming to understand more and more that we cannot do it ourselves;

And in all of this we find

- (8) true life and satisfaction; and

(9) we see lasting fruit in our lives;

And finally

(10) we receive our reward from Him.

\* \* \* \* \*