With Fear and Trembling 5
10/25/2026

Review

- In the Old Covenant, God laid out how He expected the Israelites to approach Him in worship
  - He was so serious about these standards that if you ignored them, you put your life at risk
- Worship on Your Terms or His?
  - First, the Israelites approach God on their own terms, building a Golden Calf idol to receive worship (Exodus 32)
  - Exodus 39:43 – Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the Lord had commanded…
    - Exodus 40:34-35 – 34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.
- New Testament Standards
  - 1) A Life of Holiness
  - 2) A Heart of Purity
  - 3) A Pleasing Sacrifice
    - 1) On one level, Jesus Himself is our once-for-all sacrifice so we can come into God's presence
    - 2) But on another level, in order to come into His presence, we also lay our own lives down as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1)

4) That we Live in Harmony

- The Call for Peace in our Relationships
  - 2 Corinthians 13:11 – Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.
    - "peace" = Heb. shalom = happy, friendly, prosperous, safe…
      - Contains the ideas of wholeness and balance
      - Not just that you're not fighting, but that your life is ordered and balanced according to God's commands
  - Hebrews 12:14 – Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
    - Real Biblical peace means balance, order, justice, and righteousness in your relationships
  - Romans 12:18 – If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
    - It's not just an internal feeling, but "as far as it depends on you," your relationships are not full of chaos, disorder, fighting, and unrest, but they are ordered as God wants
- Meaningless Worship
  - Isaiah 1:15-17 – 15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! 16 Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. 17 Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
  - Amos 5:21-24 – 21 I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. 22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!
    - "justice" = mishpat = can be translated "justice, fairness, rightness…"
      - It implies a rightful ordering of relationships and society according to what is right and good

- Family Issues
    - 1 Peter 3:7 – Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
        - "hinder" = lit. "to cut into," to sharply impede by cutting off what is desired or needed, like a roadblock cutting into the flow of traffic
    - Malachi 2:13-14 – 13 Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.
    - The Fall of Man (Genesis 3)
        - If Adam had been lovingly leading Eve, and Eve had been respectfully following Him, sin would never have entered the world
        - And the disorder in their relationship meant they couldn't be near God
            - He kicked them out of the Garden and stationed angels with flaming swords to keep them out
    - Parents and Children
        - Throughout the OT and NT, parents (esp. fathers) are told to raise their kids up in the knowledge of God, to instruct them in His ways, and kids are told to honor and obey their parents
            - If this relationship is out of balance, it will have disastrous consequences when we approach God
        - Aaron and his sons
        - Eli and his sons
        - Luke 1:16-17 – 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
            - Part of John the Baptist's role was to restore family relationships…
                - And what was the reason?
                    - "To make ready a people prepared for the Lord"
- God is Serious About Harmony in our Personal Relationships
    - Mark 11:25 – And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.
        - 1 John 4:20 says that it's impossible to love God if you harbor hatred toward your brother or sister… so clear that up first
    - Matthew 5:23-24 – 23 Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.
- Jesus is our Peace
    - Acts 10:36 – You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.
    - Ephesians 2:11-18 – 11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands) – 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new

humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

- What Happens when We Live in Harmony?
    - What happens when we actually live in harmony with each other?
        - 1) God comes near
        - 2) People notice
    - Acts 1:13-14 – They're living in harmony as they seek God
    - Acts 2:1-4 – 1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
        - And the next thing that happens is a crowd gathers, Peter preaches, and 3000 people are added to the church
    - John 17:20-21 – 20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.