

Raising Wise Sons and Daughters In A Misinformed Age

“Fear God”

Ecclesiastes 3:9–15
The Lord’s Day Morning
June 26, 2022

Terms

1. **Truth** is that which corresponds to reality and accords with the facts. Therefore, truth is objective and absolute. There is no “your truth” or “my truth,” only “the truth” which is “our truth.”
2. **Wisdom** is the skillful discernment and application of truth for the glory of God and the good of others (James 3:17).
3. **Counterfeit wisdom** is the clever suppression and manipulation of truth for my own glory and good (James 3:13-16).
4. **Success** is doing the right thing and trusting God with the outcome (1 Cor. 4:2).
5. **Counterfeit success** is doing the things that produce more pleasure, prosperity, praise, and power for myself than other people have.
6. **Gospel realism** recognizes that while life under the sun is apparently random and futile (undue pessimism) or predictable and controllable (undue optimism), it is actually fallen and broken due to sin. Yet God reigns over the sun, always seeing the big picture. The gospel gives hope that pain has a purpose, pleasure has its place, and all wrongs will be made right.
7. **Fear of God** is living every moment with the awareness of God’s constant presence and our future judgment. For the unbeliever, the fear of God initially brings terror and a desire to be protected *from* God’s *wrath*. For the believer who trusts in Jesus’ wrath-absorbing sacrifice, the fear of God brings restful confidence that they are protected *by* God’s *grace* in Christ. In response to this loving protection, the one who fears God will love, respect, revere, and please God (Job 28:28; Proverbs 9:10; 15:33; Ecc. 12:13).

How to Fear God

1. R_____ his sovereign reign (9–11).
2. E_____ his daily gifts (12–13)
3. S_____ to his revealed will (12-13).
4. T_____ in his secret will (14–15).