

The Fear of the Lord

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A Delightful Fear of God

The right fear of God that the scripture commands...

- ...is not just a feature of the Old Covenant, but a blessing of the New (Jer 32:38-40)
- ...is not like the devilish fear that drives us away, but one that turns us toward God (Hos 3:5)
- ...is, according to Charles Spurgeon, “A fear that leans toward the Lord because of His goodness.”

We misunderstand both fear and love, so their relationship regarding God is not obvious to us

- Culturally, fear always has a negative connotation. And we often treat love like a vague preference. But the intensity of my love changes according to its object
- Scripture gives us proper understanding, showing fear to be a strong reaction that is both negative and positive (Isa 33:14; Jer 33:8-9)
- Commonly suggested synonyms like awe, respect, and reverence are imperfect, because they fail to adequately capture how the fear of God is distinct from all other fears.

Spurgeon again: The fear of God is “...the sort of fear which has in it the very essence of love, and without it there would be no joy, even in the presence of God.”

- The closer we look at scripture, the closer the fear of God and love of God seem. Sometimes they are even put in parallel (Ps 145:19-20)
- Seen clearly, the dazzling beauty and splendor of God should cause our hearts to quake
- The fear of God is a pleasure to believers because it is a way of enjoying His fearfully lovely glory (Neh 1:11; Prov 28:14)

“The fear of God is an ecstasy of love and joy that senses how overwhelmingly kind, magnificent, good, and true God is, and therefore leans on Him in staggered faith and praise.” – Michael Reeves