



**FEAR**  
OF MAN

**The person to whom we assign  
the most authority is the person  
we fear the most, because it is  
the person whose approval  
we desire the most.**

**Fear of man is being afraid of  
the disapproval of others, in  
what they may say or  
think about you.**

# Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)

Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

**The Message:** The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that.

**If you are insecure in the  
Father's love and acceptance,  
then you will try to fill that void  
in your life with the approval  
of other people.**

# Fear of Man

- Man's love = conditional.
- God's love = unconditional.
- God transfers our fear to the right place.
- Reveal who and what we love.
- What's really important.

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# Fear of Man

- We obey the one we fear.
- Essentially, becomes a functional god.
- Only need approval of God – and God alone.



# Galatians 1:10

If I was still trying to win the approval of men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

**How many opportunities  
have I missed, because  
I was afraid of what  
others thought?**

# Isaiah 51:12-13

I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mere mortals, human beings who are but grass, that you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretches out the heavens and who lays the foundations of the earth?

- **Proverbs 14:26** – Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.
- **Psalms 112:1** – Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying His commands.
- **Proverbs 19:23** – The fear of the Lord leads to life; and he who has it rests satisfied.

# #1 – Confess it.

- Recognize/confess it, for the **sin** that it is.
- **Anxiety**: Anxiety is not a condition to be managed; it is a sin to be repented of.
- Between the **cause** of your fear of man and your **response**, there must be **Jesus**, the real Ruler of your life.

## #2 – Question it.

- **What** exactly am I afraid of?
- **Why** am I afraid of this?
- Do I really have a **good reason** to fear?
- Articulating your fear often exposes it as the pathetic thing that it is.

# #3 – Courageously confront it.

- **Acts 5:29** – We must obey God rather than men.
- **Deuteronomy 31:6** – Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

# #3 – Courageously confront it.

- Learn to trust God's promises more than your perceptions.
- **Hebrews 13:6** – The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?



# Isaiah 8:12-14

Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, Him you shall honor as holy. Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. And He will become a sanctuary.

**To stop fearing  
wrongly, we must  
start fearing rightly.**

# Ed Welch

All experiences of the fear of man share at least one common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us. Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. Therefore, the first task in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to know that God is exalted and glorious – not other people.