

# FEAR OF MAN

## Class 2: The Fear of God

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*“The basic idea behind the fear of the Lord, is much broader than our modern understanding of fear. While the holiness of God will leave many knees knocking when Jesus comes again, a mature fear of the Lord is more akin to awe, devotion, and worship. It is a response that says, ‘Your glory is irresistible.’ ‘In your presence, nothing else matters. You are all that I desire.’ Furthermore, it is a response that is active. It does something. It is not simply a passive devotion; it follows Christ in obedience. It searches out his will and can’t wait to do it.”*

Ed Welch, *Addictions*

**Definition:** Reverent Submission that leads to obedient trust and worship

### I. Who Should Fear God?

Ps. 33:8—All should

Ps. 36:1—The wicked do not

Rom 14:11—All will

### II. Why should we fear God?

#### **Design**

Gen 1:26-27 –We were created to represent him and still fear him.

#### **He’s worthy**

Ps. 2:10-11—It is at the heart of what it means to serve the Lord

Ps. 89:7—He is more awesome than all that surround Him

Ps. 90:11—His wrath is equal to the fear He deserves

Ps. 27:1—The Lord is our salvation

#### **It’s for our own good.**

Ps. 111:10/Prov. 1:7—Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge

Ps. 115:11—He is a help and shield to those who fear Him.

Ps. 115:13—He will bless those who fear Him

Ps. 118:4—His love endures forever

Ps. 23:4—Triumph over fear of evil

Ps. 25:14—The Lord confides in those who fear Him

Ps. 27:3—Not fearing physical harm

Ps. 31:19—God’s goodness is poured out on those who fear Him

Ps. 33:18—The Lord’s eyes are on those who fear Him

Ps. 34:4—Deliverance from lesser fears

Ps. 34:9—Lacking nothing

Ps. 103:11—The magnitude of His love for those who fear Him

Ps. 103:13—His Fatherly compassion is upon those who fear Him

Ps. 111:5—He provides food to those who fear Him

Ps. 130:4—There is forgiveness to those who fear Him  
Ps. 145:19—Desires are fulfilled for those who fear Him  
Ps. 147:11—The Lord delights in those who fear Him  
Prov. 10:27—Adds length of life  
Prov. 15:33—Fear of the Lord teaches man wisdom.  
Prov. 16:6—A man avoids evil.  
Prov. 22:4—Results in wealth and honor and life

### **III. Fear of God lost: what happens when we don't fear God?**

- A. The Worst Exchange
- B. Alienation from God.
- C. Alienation each other.
  - i. Fear of exposure/shame
  - ii. Fear of rejection
  - iii. Fear of physical harm

### **IV. How can we get it back?**

Christ gives us the righteousness we desperately need

- A. The greatest exchange (2 Cor. 5:21)
- B. Christ's righteousness for our sin.

### **V. What does the fear of God look like in action?**

#### **Descriptions in Scripture of the fear of God in action**

Ps. 22:23—They give praise.  
Ps. 66:16—They listen to truth.  
Ps. 76:8—They are quiet.  
Ps. 86:11—They are teachable and have an undivided heart.  
Ps. 119:63—They follow His precepts.  
Ps. 119:74—They hope in the Word.  
Ps. 119:79—They understand His statutes.  
Ps. 119:120—They stand in awe of God's laws.  
Ps. 128:1—They walk in His ways.  
Prov. 3:7—Not being wise in your own eyes (humility)  
Prov. 8:13—Hatred of evil  
Prov. 14:2—Their walk is upright.

**Examples of God-fearers:**

**VI. How do we begin to put on the fear of God?**

- We are not merely attempting to “find solutions” to our fear of man but are seeking after a deeper fear of the Lord.
- A. Meditate on the Gospel!
- B. Study the character of God.
- C. Repent of pride.

***Additional Resources:***

Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*

John Murray, *The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness*

J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

John Piper, *The Pleasures of God*

John Piper, *God is the Gospel*

Ed Welch, *When People are Big and God is Small*