

Teaching Sound Doctrine

Fear God Pt:2

The second aspect of Fearing God is... Be dedicated. The one who fears God is devoted and dedicated with all his heart. There is no place for half-hearted service among those who fear God. Again, consider some passages from Deuteronomy.

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deut. 10:12).

"You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to him you shall hold fast..." (Deut. 10:20).

This dedication means that one will be careful in his obedience (in contrast to a hap-hazard or careless approach to the Christian life) (Deut. 17:19). Consider some other passages from Deuteronomy:

"...that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law" (Deut. 31:12).

"If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD" (Deut. 28:58).

3. Hate sin . Because of the love and respect one has for God, he will develop a hatred for sin. He not only will hate sin, but will cease the practice of it. The Proverb writer said, "Fear the Lord and depart from evil" (Prov. 3:7). Again he wrote, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (Prov. 8:13, see also 16:6).

Moses told God's people at Sinai that God's presence on the mount (the display of thundering, lightening, sounding of the trumpet and the smoke on the mountain) was to test them "that his fear may be before you, so that you may not sin" (Exo. 20:20). Thus, if one fears God, he will hate sin and cease the practice of it.

The Psalmist said, "Because they do not change, therefore they do not fear God" (Psa. 55:19). When people persist in sin and never change (whether an alien in the world or a supposed "Christian") the problem is they do not fear God.

4. Honor God . Nehemiah described himself as one of the people who "desire to

fear Your Name" (Neh. 1:11). That desire caused him to view God with the highest respect. He described God as the "great and awesome God" (Neh. 1:5; 4:14).

Our view of God ought not be a casual one that thinks of God as our "buddy". In attitude, words and action we should praise him as the Almighty (Rev. 4:11), the creator of the world (Gen. 1:1), the one who holds the world in the palm of his hands (Isa. 40), the one who caused the sun and the moon to stand still (Joshua 10:12-14), the one who delivered his people from the hand of the Egyptians with wonders and signs (Exo. 7-14), and the one who raised his Son from the dead (John 20).

5. Respect for the word of God . If one honors God, he will have the utmost respect for his word. Remember that Nehemiah described those among whom he worked (as he did himself) as those "who desire to fear...." Because of that fear they were attentive to Ezra as he read and explained the law (Neh. 8:2). They stood when Ezra opened the book in their presence (v. 5).

If we fear God we too will hold the word in high esteem. We should view the Bible as the inspired word that came from the mouth of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:13). We should never forget that this is the book by which we will be judged in the last day (John 12:48). The way we refer to the word and the way we respond to it will reflect whether we respect it or not.

6. Respect and treat others right . Respect for God means that we will respect fellowman. Moses thought that Abimelech would not treat him or Sarah right because he did not fear God. He said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife" (Gen. 20:11).

Nehemiah rebuked some who were mistreating their brethren by exacting usury from them saying, "What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?" (Neh. 5:9). Notice the contrast in the fear of God and the mistreatment of others. David said that those who rule over others should do so in the fear of God (2 Sam. 23:3).

Many of the laws given on Sinai that dealt with how Israel was to treat others put walking in the fear of God in contrast to mistreatment of others. For example, "You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the Lord" (Lev. 19:14; see also Lev. 19:32; 25:17, 36, 43).

Walking in the fear of God involves more than being baptized. It involves more than going to church. May this study challenge us to be more dedicated, more devoted and sacrifice more for the cause of the Lord.

In closing this lesson let us remember.... Just as parents want their children to fear certain things such as touching hot stoves or the perils of doing drugs we

seek to instill in them a fear of those things for their own good, so God wants us to fear the consequences of our actions. Deu 8:5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. Deu 8:6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Fear is not a bad thing at all. It causes one to step back and rethink their actions. Knowing there is an eternal punishment waiting for those who will not follow Gods commands. The Psalmist wrote Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Psa_33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

Psa_33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

To have a good healthy fear of the Lord makes it possible for us to be pleasing to God and keeps us from doing that which we know to be wrong. Psa_111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Only a foolish man does not see that fear is necessary. Pro_1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.