



THE FEAR OF GOD

1. Definition

- The Old Testament theme was to Fear God
- The word fear comes from the Heb words yir'ah and pachad which means to "fear," "terror," or "dread."
- Many Christian teachers will downplay the "fear of God" and use replacement words such as "respect," "reverence," or "honor," This is not so.
- The New Testament theme is the Love of God

2. Scriptures on fearing God

- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline - Prov 1:7
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding –Ps 111:10
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding - Prov 9:10
- But he stands alone, and who can oppose him? He does whatever he pleases. He carries out his decree against me, and many such plans he still has in store. That is why I am terrified before him; when I think of all this, I fear him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me - Job 23:13-16
- "Should you not fear me?" declares the Lord. "Should you not tremble in my presence?" – Jer 5:22
- Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling - Ps 2:11
- The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever – Ps 19:9
- Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him - Ps 33:8
- Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD - Ps 34:11
- Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name – Ps 86:11

3. The believers position

- The good news is that the fear of God is only the beginning of understanding
- How can we comprehend the utterly Great News of Jesus Christ if we don't first appreciate the fear of God?
- Without total awe, wonder, terror, dread, reverence, and respect for a perfectly holy, righteous, and just Creator, can we truly appreciate what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did for us on Calvary's cross?
- It ultimately comes down to perspective and position.
- Who is God and what is my perspective on His nature, power, and justice?
- Who am I and what is my human position relative to this Almighty God?
- Once we understand and accept the entire story, we can walk out our lives in a special appreciation of co-existing truths -- the "Fear of God" and the "Love of God."

4. The "Fear of God" and the "Love of God."

- Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever" – Ps 118:4
- The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love – Ps 147:11
- He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water" – Rev 14:7

5. There is no fear in love

- But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love - 1 Jhn 4:18
- Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us - 1 Jhn 4:7-12

- But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us - Rom 5:8
- “Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (Jesus to His disciples)
- Jhn 15:12-13

6. Summary

Fear God and Love God