**The Fear of God Gets the Ear of God – Part IV**

Message for Sunday September 3, 2022

My heart is to see all repent and come to the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus. That none would reject Him and live a life for themselves, which leads to certain destruction.

I want to see us all lay down pride and arrogance, thinking we can do life our own way and have no need to forsake all, surrender, and just die now.

That those who reject the gospel or simply give lip service to believing without adhering would truly come to the knowledge of the Fear of God. And that that fear would lead them to transformation.

But for those who continue to be defiant against God and His people, there are consequences.

The consequences of not properly fearing God vs. properly fearing God.

What are the core roots of obstinance, arrogance, and pride against the ways of God:

* An improper view of who He is to a person personally.
* An improper view of who He is based on what you have seen from people who claim to know Him or call themselves Christians. Or even worse, church leaders.
* An improper view of what life serving and living for Him will look like.
* You love darkness more than the light and your not willing to give up that lifestyle. Or you have this fear that you will be asked to give up things you don’t want to let go of. I.e. the Cost is too High!
* Afraid to lose friends, family, and stuff. Or afraid to be offensive.

**Matt 10:32-34 - 32“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.34“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.**

* You haven’t been crushed enough by the darkness to realize your desperate need for the living in the light. Hence, you don’t see the need to change.
* Or, you’ve been so crushed that your full of shame that you’re afraid to come to God as you are.
* And finally, people are blinded by the devil that they can’t see the light and receive the great news for their life.

Four reasons to flee your current lifestyle:

* The Goodness, pleasure, and love of God
* The wrath to come. Judgement is coming
* The current state of your life. i.e. the wrath upon you now.
* Godly sorrow for your failures, mistakes, and past.

So let’s tackle some of these root systems we just discussed from a Biblical standpoint:

**Improper view of God’s character and nature**

**Matthew 25:24-25 - 24“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.’**

* The way you see Him the way you serve Him
* Cruel master or a Loving Father?
* Judgmental condemning hard God that’s a narcissist or an empowering loving and giving God that always has your best interest at mind.
* Prodigal son was the son issue not the Father.
* Slaves and sons only do the minimum and feel entitled. And also, they always live in fear, shame and control (hiding).
* Son in Hebrew is builder of family name and legacy
* Main allegiance is to family name and honoring the Father.

**Too Difficult/Improper View of What Following Jesus Look Like**

* Unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus, you have no life in you. But if you do, you have eternal life.
  + Eating & drinking = abiding. In turn we get fed.

**John 6:60 - 60Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this,* said, “This is a [**[**m**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26318m)**]hard saying; who can understand it?”**

* The Rich Young Ruler – What “good” thing must I do to inherit eternal life?
  + Only thinking about being good and the afterlife. Because I’m “good” now.
  + He had kept all the commands since his youth and asked, “what do I still lack”
  + Jesus’ response – If you want to be perfect, trade your treasure for something better and follow Him. His reponse?

**Matthew 19:22 - 22But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

**Loving darkness**

**John 3:18-21 - 18“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”**

There is no condemnation to those who believe and have an accurate fear of the Lord; however, for those who do not, they are already living in condemnation.

**Condemnation** – Krisis Gk. – Decision of justice. Separated and living under trial. Judgment concerning right and wrong, justice vs. injustice. Sentenced to punishment.

A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger.

A time when a difficult decision must be made.

Why?

* They don’t believe in Jesus
* They love darkness and their deeds were evil.
* Hate the light
* Fear of exposure

**Fear, Shame, and Control**

Hiding in the garden

**Gen 3:7-10 - 7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves [**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-63b)**]coverings.**

**8And they heard the [**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-64c)**]sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the [**[**d**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-64d)**]cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.**

**9Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”**

**10So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”**

An inaccurate view of yourself will always give you an inaccurate view of God.

And, just how big your enemy is or isn’t. (i.e. Goliath, grasshopper mentality in the promised land).

**Blinded by the Enemy**

**2 Cor 4:3-4 - 3But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**

**2 Timothy 2:23-26 - 23But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. 24And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26and *that* they may come to their senses *and* *escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.**

When people are taken captive by the enemy to do his will, they are ensnared and not in their “senses” – meaning they aren’t thinking straight, they are irrational, and behaving unreasonably (i.e. foolish).

Vs. beginning to think in a sensible or correct way after being foolish or wrong.

This is where apologetics comes into play:

**1 Peter 3:15-17 - 15But [**[**d**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30440d)**]sanctify [**[**e**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30440e)**]the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;16having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.**

**Give a defense/answer: Apologia Gk. –** A plea that clears yourself. Verbal defense, reasoned statement or argument that justifies your position – especially in doctrine.

People will want to know the reason, and we are to answer with “meekness and fear, and a good conscience.

Why? So that when people defame you as evildoers and revile your good conduct in Christ, they are the ones who are ashamed.

And by the way, it’s better to suffer for doing good and for doing evil.

Which now leads me to the following scripture:

**Jude 1:21-23 – NKJV 21keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**

**22And on some have compassion, [**[**j**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%201&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30695j)**]making a distinction; 23but others save [**[**k**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%201&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30696k)**]with fear, pulling *them* out of the [**[**l**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%201&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30696l)**]fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.**

* Context is to those who have been polluted by the apostates teachings. In turn they have become sensual, divisive and are deceived spiritually. In turn, they are headed in a horrible direction with dire consequences.
* Making a distinction, or, who are doubting.
  + The prophet Joel calls is the “Valley of Decision” where impending judgment is coming.
* Save with fear –
  + Question: Is this fear for them or fear for us?
  + Fear of consequences can be a motivator to the unbeliever.
  + The Fear of God is the greatest motivator to the believer.
* Pulling them out of the fire – Holy Ghost intervention.
* We must always lead and look with mercy and compassion; however, there is still “tough love”.
  + **Tough Love** - promotion of a person's welfare, especially that of an addict, child, or criminal, by enforcing certain constraints on them, or requiring them to take responsibility for their actions.
  + Examples
  + **Antonyms of tough love:** Enabling, Babying, coddling, pampering, indulgence.
  + When we don’t show tough love when it’s needed (especially for the mercy driven people), we are actually enabling and coddling that person in their sin. In turn, we don’t pull them out of the fire, we just make sure they are comfortable while in it. Which could actually leads to us being complicit and tolerant, as if it’s ok when it’s not.
* And this is why we must “hate the garment defiled by the flesh.”

**Jude 1:21-23 TPT – Keep being compassionate to those who still have doubts, and snatch others out of the fire to save them. Be merciful over and over to them, but always couple your mercy with the fear of God. Be extremely careful to keep yourselves free from the pollutants of the flesh”.**

**The wrath of God**

Romans 1:18-32 – Summarizes the Wrath of God on Unrighteousness

**Vs. 18 - 18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who [**[**d**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27949d)**]suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

Goes on to say:

* God is always revealing Himself through creation and among us.
* No one has a proper excuse to reject Him and suppress the truth.
  + **Suppress:** Hold back/down, restrain/hinders. Prevent or inhibit development, expression, and dissemination.
* Did not glorify God
* Were not thankful
* Became futule in their thoughts
* Foolish hearts were darkened
* Professing to be wise but actually became fools
* Changed the glory of God to idolatry
* Three times “God gave them up/over” to their own ways, and in turn, they receive the penalty of their error which is rightfully due them.

Gave them up – Yielded to a debased mind.

**Debased:** **Reprobate** – Unprincipled person. Not approved, not passing the test, unfit, castaway, rejected.

Yes God loves you and desires you, but when we continue suppressing the truth, we become reprobates. Unfit for duty and failing the tests and trials that truly do want (and will) kill you.

**Key takeaways:**

* Receiving Correction
* Remaining Humble
* Gaining true wisdom
* Fools despise wisdom
* Don’t’ be Foolishness = moron
* Discerning when your or someone else needs a Holy Spirit intervention.
* Eating his flesh and blood