

# NO RESPECT



I get no respect. When I was a boy, I asked my father if I could go ice fishing. He told me, 'Wait until it warms up a bit.' When I was a kid, my parents got divorced and there was a custody battle over me, but no one showed up. They sent me to a child psychiatrist for four years but the kid didn't help me at all. I told another psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous - not everyone has met me yet. My psychiatrist told me I was crazy so I told him I wanted to get a second opinion. He then remarked, 'You're ugly too.' When I told him I felt like a dog, he said, 'Get off the couch!' Rodney Dangerfield was a comedian who specialized in 'I get no respect' jokes such as the ones above. There is someone else who gets no respect, but it is not a laughing matter.

I am grateful that I grew up in a home where there was respect for God, not just on Sunday, but throughout the week. Life goes better when we have respect for the one who created this world and live according to His ways. In 1982, I heard about the 'Fear of the Lord' from Keith Green in a two part message entitled: What's Wrong with the Gospel: The Missing Parts and the Added Parts. One missing part was: The Fear of God and the Judgment Seat of Christ. Here is an excerpt from it.

'Instead of the **awesome majesty** of Jehovah, today the Lord is presented as a sort of 'ice cream man- Santa Claus'. And the church is the 'candy store' where you can get 'every goodie your heart desires,' Jesus Himself is portrayed as a 'sweetie pie', so good, so loving, so forgiving, and so gentle, that you can almost hear the preacher whisper, "Aw, He wouldn't hurt a fly.....". But what happened to '**It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God**' (Hebrews 10:31) or '**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**'? (Proverbs 9:10)

The wise new editors of modern preaching rhetoric have conveniently wiped out every reference to the Almighty's severity while emphasizing only His kindness. This they do, ignoring the balanced biblical view of Paul, 'Behold then the kindness and severity of God', (Romans 11:22) - Keith Green / What's Wrong With the Gospel ,

In his classic book called 'Knowing God', J.I. Packer does a masterful job in covering various aspects of God's character. R.C. Sproul's finest book is the one called 'The Holiness of God' in which the reader can better appreciate the reverence we should have for God. Another book that impacted me was one by international Bible teacher Joy Dawson - **Intimate Friendship with God - Through understanding the fear of the Lord** (1986) After reading it, I marked every phrase in my Bible that said 'fear of the Lord' with a special color so I could readily spot it when browsing through my Bible. There are about 100 verses that mention it, and yet it is a neglected topic by preachers and teachers, perhaps because they fear man more than they fear God.

'As Christians, we are to be newsboys, not editors of the gospel. If you take part of the truth and try to make that part of the truth all of the truth, then that part of the truth becomes an untruth.' - Adrian Rogers

## How can we know if a person fears God?

### 1. They obey God - Genesis 22:12 Abraham offers his only son

True obedience is: Total and Complete - Psalm 119:4

Joyful, Delightful - Psalm 119:14, 16, 24, 35, 47

Quick, Instant - Psalm 119:60

### 2. They hate sin and evil

To **fear the Lord** is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. - Proverbs 8:13

Jesus embodied the fear of the Lord in his life and walk. He loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Isaiah 11:2-5, Hebrews 1:8-9. To fear God is to love what He loves and hate what He hates. It is to always seek to please Him instead of seeking to please man. That describes Jesus. As you read through the gospels, you will notice how he was driven by the desire to please the Father and only do what he saw the Father doing. His prayer in John 17 confirms that. Too many preachers today would rather be popular rather than prophetic.

### 3. They revere and honor God's name as awesome - Malachi 1:14, 2:5

\* They recognize that the primary attribute of God is Holiness and Righteousness. Jesus called Him 'Holy and Righteous Father' - John 17:11, 25

Those who know me well, are aware that I dislike the overuse of the word 'awesome'. People use it to describe mundane things of everyday life. Its use should be reserved primarily for God or amazing things that God has done directly or indirectly. Awesome is something or someone that inspires awe, wonder, reverence or fear. Adam was afraid of God, but only after he sinned. If he had truly feared God and obeyed God's directions, he would not have fallen into sin. (Eve was deceived but Adam was a typical man, he did not listen and follow directions).

We see how Israel was afraid of God and yet Moses told them to fear God in order to keep from sinning - Exodus 20:18-20. To fear God is to draw near to Him with reverence, respect and trust. It is to believe that He is good and always right and thus to be obeyed completely. This brings honor and joy to God and gives us the fullness of pleasure and protection from following Him. God is love and He tells us that perfect love drives out all fear. There are many types of fear. Natural human fears, demonic fears that bring torment and healthy fears that keep us from dangerous places, things or even people. Fear of God is important, for lack of respect for His power and presence prevents us from experiencing the best He has for us. To reject Him is to reject life, love, righteousness, holiness and goodness.

King Solomon was a man who began as a humble king who feared God, as evidenced by his request for wisdom - not for long life or wealth. God gave him all three. He wrote most of the book of Proverbs, one full of wisdom with many mentions of the fear of the Lord.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge - Proverbs 1:7a*

*Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil, this will bring health to your body and nourishment for your bones. - Proverbs 3:7-8  
(3 correlations: humble.....holy.....healthy)*

Humility and the **fear of the Lord** bring wealth, honor and life. - Proverbs 22:4  
As time went on, Solomon veered off from the fear of the Lord which his son David mentioned in one of his Psalms and which God commanded Israel in all of Deuteronomy chapter 8.

Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who **fears the Lord**, who finds **delight in His commands**. - Psalm 112:1

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, **failing to observe His commands**, his laws and decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are **satisfied**, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your **heart** will become **proud** and **you will forget the Lord** your God, who brought you out of the land of slavery. - Deuteronomy 8:10-14

When Solomon became king, he knew of the following commands for Israel and for him.

The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of **horses** for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, 'You are not to go back that way again.' He must not take many **wives**, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of **silver** and **gold**. When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and **he is to read it all the days of his life** so that he may **learn to fear (revere) the Lord** his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees. - Deuteronomy 17:16-19

Did Solomon continue to fear God, guard his heart and follow God's commands?

*King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses. He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods and his heart was not as fully devoted to the Lord his God as the heart of David his father had been. - 1 Kings 10:23, 26; 11:3-4*

"There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart's desires. The other is to get it." - George Bernard Shaw

At the end of Solomon's life, he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes which expressed his feelings about the emptiness and meaninglessness of all things 'under the sun' (on this earth in this life without God). He concludes with these words of wisdom:

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter. **Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.** For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

We can learn more about this subject from Abraham, Moses, Jesus and an angel. It involves friendship with God. (we will cover this more completely in another message)

*The Lord **confides** in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them.* - Psalm 25:14 NIV

*The **friendship** of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He makes His covenant known to them.* - NRSV

***Friendship** with God is reserved for those who reverence Him. With them alone He shares the **secrets** of His promises.* - Living Bible

Near the end of this age, God sends out three angels with final messages for the whole world. The first angel shouts 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 and the sea and the springs of water.* - Revelation 14:6-7

The second angel warns about those who drink the maddening wine of the wicked worldly Babylon system. The third angel warns about those who let the beast system control their minds and actions (marked in their forehead or the hand) They will experience the full strength of the wrath of God. - Revelation 14:8-11.

*This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.* - Revelation 14:12 NIV

Just before a bar, tavern or pub closes; the bartender may shout out '**Last Call**'. He has just reminded the patrons that this is the last chance to get a final drink at the bar. Before He returns to earth to judge it, *Jesus gives His Last Call* through His Spirit and His bride:

**Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.** - Revelation 22:17

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