



“Fear & The Love of God” (1 John 4:7-21) 2014

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Topic:

1. Fear
2. Love

vv.7-12 By this shall all men know...

- Colossians 3:13 Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

vv.14-21 We have talked in detail during our study of I John about the practical ways we should love one another. Refer especially to message on I John 3:11-24.

What I felt strongly led to focus our attention on in this section is verse 18.

Some fear is healthy; Fear that causes one to flee from danger is not a bad fear; the fear my children have of my disciplining hand has I trust been a deterrent for rebellion and a sure means of corrective discipline.

Acts 5: 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Phil.2: 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

If we are not saved, the greatest fear one should have is fear of future judgment.

- Heb.10: 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- Luke 12:4-5

Everyone has an innate sense regarding eternity.

- Eccl. 3:11a He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men...

Everyone will stand before God on a future day of judgment.

- Heb.9: 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.
- Christians at the judgment seat of Christ (II Cor.5:10; Rom.14:10)
- Unbelievers at the “great white throne judgment” (Rev.20:11-15)

Jesus is the appointed judge on the day of judgment.

Acts 17: 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

- Acts 10: 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.
- Matthew 25:31-46

There are only two choices as to where one will spend eternity.

- On the outskirts of a small town there was a huge pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two guys filled up a bucket with nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing them. “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.” Some of the pecan nuts rolled down toward the fence. A boy came riding along on his bicycle, and as he passed, he heard voices inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate, and here’s what he heard: “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.” He just knew what it was, so he quickly hopped on his bike and rode off as fast as he could. When he rounded a corner he was met by an old man with a cane, hobbling along. He stopped and said to the man, “You won’t believe what I heard down by the cemetery. Satan and the Lord are down there dividing up the souls.” The man then hobbled along, following the boy to the cemetery. When they arrived, they stood by the fence and sure enough heard “One for you, one for me.” The old man whispered to the boy, “Boy you were telling the truth. Let’s see if we can get a peek at the Lord. They tried to peer through the fence, but could still see nothing. Then all of a sudden they heard, “One for you, one for me. That’s all. Now let’s go get those nuts by the fence and we’ll be done.” They say the old man made it back to town a full five minutes ahead of the boy on the bike.

Fear of future judgment is one of the main reasons man is afraid to die.

- Heb.2: 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Some people deliberately block thoughts of future judgment.

- II Peter 3: 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

We do not have to fear the day of judgment (Rom.3:21-36; 5:1; 8:1, 15; II Cor.5:21).

- John 5: 24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

What a different view one has once love has driven out fear.

- Phil.1: 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.
- I Cor.15: 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fear must be "driven" out; it does not leave easily. And what does our text tell us drives out fear?

Once I deal with the fear of judgment by receiving Christ as my Lord and Savior, then God begins to deal with other fears I face in this present life.

There are lots of fears (phobias) mankind deals with in our day:

- Acrophobia (afraid of heights)
- Hydrophobia/Aquaphobia (fear of water)
- Clostrophobia
- Abluthophobia (fear of bathing)
- Acousticophobia (fear of noise)-
- Agrizoophobia (fear of wild animals)

- Arachnophobia (fear of spiders)
- Chaetophobia (fear of hair)
- Ecclesiophobia (fear of church)
- Homilophobia (fear of sermons)
- Decidophobia (fear of making decisions)
- Novercaphobia (fear of your mother-in-law)
- Papaphobia (fear of the Pope)

- I still at times feel fear when I am alone in the dark; recently came in auditorium to get something I left, was dark and I felt like someone was following me. They call that “Achluophobia” or Lygophobia.”

- Ever have those dreams where a monster is chasing you and its like you’re running in quicksand? Or a dream where you’re falling, and you wake up just before you hit the ground?

- Tocophobia (fear of pregnancy or childbirth)
- Pantophobia (fear of everything)

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare...

Exodus 14:10, 13-14; Deut.20:1-4; 31:6; Joshua 1:6, 7, 9

Examples of those who needed to overcome fear:

Judges 7:10-11; I Samue1 17:11, 24; 28:5/contrast with son Jonathan; King David is certainly an OT hero, but he had to deal with fear. Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me...; Psalm 23 was written after years of “the love of God being made complete in David. Check out a situation early on in David’s journey of faith (I Sam.21:12). David wrote a lot of Psalms that reveal his growth in the area of fear, but it was a process.

Mark 6:45-52, noting v.48b.

I used to have this idea that the apostle Paul never had to deal with fear, but I have discovered that simply is not true. See Acts 18:9-11; 27:23-25; I Cor.2:3; Eph.6:19-20.

Hebrews 13:5 (from Deut.31:6) – “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Jeremiah 31:3...I have loved you with an everlasting love...

Psalm 56:3,11 **When** I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?...in God I trust; I will not be afraid...

Isa.12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

Closing Song