

The FEAR of Man

Genesis 20:1-11



“The fear of man bringeth a snare:
but whoso putteth his trust in the
LORD shall be safe” (Prov. 29:25).

Sadly, we are often more afraid of offending men than we are of sinning against God. Abraham feared men and lied about his wife (Gen. 20:2). He could have trusted God, told the truth and enjoyed God’s protection. When the pagan king asked why he had done this, Abraham justified himself by saying, “Because I thought the fear of God is not in this place” (Gen. 20:11). He failed to recognize that the fear of God was absent from his own heart. Like Abraham, instead of fearing God we often fear men. We begin thinking like this:

*“What will **they** think of me? What will **they** say? Will **they** get angry? Will **they** be pleased? Maybe **they** will see me! I’m afraid of what **they** might do to me! Will **they** be upset or offended? Will **they** still be friendly towards me? What will **they** want me to say? What will **they** want me to do? Where will **they** want me to go? I’m afraid **they** will not be happy with me! I don’t think **they** will approve of this! **They** might frown on my actions! I hope **they** will really appreciate what I’m about to do!”*

This epitomizes the fear of men. What then is the *fear of God*? To answer this question, simply read the above sentences again and substitute the word “**GOD**” for the word “they.” You will discover what the fear of God is all about.

We are so concerned about the opinion others have of us. How ensnaring and enslaving is the fear of man! May we never allow man’s opinions and pressures to turn us away from right conduct.

Obey God no matter what men may say, think or do!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

The FEAR of Man

Genesis 20:1-11



“The fear of man bringeth a snare:
but whoso putteth his trust in the
LORD shall be safe” (Prov. 29:25).

Sadly, we are often more afraid of offending men than we are of sinning against God. Abraham feared men and lied about his wife (Gen. 20:2). He could have trusted God, told the truth and enjoyed God’s protection. When the pagan king asked why he had done this, Abraham justified himself by saying, “Because I thought the fear of God is not in this place” (Gen. 20:11). He failed to recognize that the fear of God was absent from his own heart. Like Abraham, instead of fearing God we often fear men. We begin thinking like this:

*“What will **they** think of me? What will **they** say? Will **they** get angry? Will **they** be pleased? Maybe **they** will see me! I’m afraid of what **they** might do to me! Will **they** be upset or offended? Will **they** still be friendly towards me? What will **they** want me to say? What will **they** want me to do? Where will **they** want me to go? I’m afraid **they** will not be happy with me! I don’t think **they** will approve of this! **They** might frown on my actions! I hope **they** will really appreciate what I’m about to do!”*

This epitomizes the fear of men. What then is the *fear of God*? To answer this question, simply read the above sentences again and substitute the word “**GOD**” for the word “they.” You will discover what the fear of God is all about.

We are so concerned about the opinion others have of us. How ensnaring and enslaving is the fear of man! May we never allow man’s opinions and pressures to turn us away from right conduct.

Obey God no matter what men may say, think or do!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org