The Joy of Fearing God

April 20, 2024

Read Chapter 3 – *Should Christians Fear God*

1. The author writes: “The fear of God is the animating and invigorating principle of a godly life. It is the wellspring of all godly desires and aspirations. Do you desire to be a godly person? Then you must understand and grow in the fear of God.” What does it mean to you to become a godly person?
2. Read II Corinthians 6:17-18 and II Corinthians 7:1.

What does it mean to “come and from among them and be separate?”

What promise is given in verse 18? Discuss what it means.

According to 7:1, we are to be involved in the process of “perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” According to the three verses, what does that process include?

What difference do you think fearing God truly makes in how a person lives?

1. Read I Peter 1:17-19. What does this passage tell us about God’s character?

What does this passage teach us about how we are to live our lives?

How are verses 18-19 connected with verse 17?

1. Read Acts 9:31 and discuss the characteristics of the early church.

How does our church manifest those characteristics?

1. Read Acts 5:1-11 and discuss the response of the church to what happened.
2. Describe a time you had respect for God, admiration for God, or amazement toward God.
3. Read the following verses and discuss how you see ‘servile fear’ demonstrated.

Matthew 25:24-30 –

I John 4:18 –

1. Read the following verses and discuss how you see ‘familial fear’ demonstrated.

Romans 8:14-17 –

Galatians 4:4-7 –

Hebrews 12:5-11 –

What is your motivation to have familiar fear toward God?

1. Isaiah 11:1-5 is a Messianic passage. Verse 3 is the heart of the passage in which we read that the Messiah, Jesus, “will delight in the fear of the Lord.” Linked with His fear of the Lord are several characteristics. What are they and discuss what that means for us in our need to fear the Lord?

Verse 2 –

Verses 4 –

Verse 5 –

1. What passages/examples from the life of Jesus demonstrate how He delighted in fearing the Lord? Discuss what this means for us.
2. Questions for personal application:

Do I experience, at least to some degree, the fear of God as it has been described so far?

Does my fear of God tend to be ‘slavish’ so that I view God as a stern taskmaster who’s never pleased with me?

Is my fear of God so shallow that I tend to be overly familiar with God and fail to show the reverential awe that is due Him?

Do I sometimes indulge in known sinful actions, thoughts, or words because I do not have a proper regard for God’s Fatherly discipline?

Next month – The Joy of Fearing God – Chapter 4 – May 18, 2024