

Heart Healthy

FEARING ALL THE WRONG THINGS



Fear God and live or fear others and be destroyed

Matthew 14:1-12

Fear can be healthy

Fear of God = Taking God seriously

Fear of Man = Taking man seriously

What determines Right or Wrong? God's Laws; Cultural Norms

The more powerful a person becomes the less they will fear man

Proverbs 18:1, "One who isolates himself pursues selfish desires; he rebels against all sound judgment."

1. Refusing to fear God is opening yourself up the danger of sin

A. It causes us to make light of spiritual things

B. It causes us to underestimate the power of sin

2. The power of sin is deception

- Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"

A. It makes you believe you are in control

- Genesis 3:2-6, "The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.' " "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

B. It takes you farther than you want to Go

-Sin doesn't find its power in major compromise, it advances itself through thousands of little compromises

C. It costs you more than you want to pay

-The devil pays, but he pays in counterfeit money

-If you eat the devil's corn, he will choke you on the cob

D. It keeps you though you don't want to stay

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3. Once fully deceived by sin, we will do what we never would have done in the beginning

A. Make light of our blessings

B. Fear those we should not for reasons that should not matter

Ecclesiastes 12:13, "When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is: fear God and keep His commands, because this is for all humanity."

C. Take actions that we would never have considered