
NO FEAR

REALLY!?!
A Popular Heresy

- (Since) God is love. (1 Jn. 4:8b)

- (And) Perfect love casts out fear. (1 Jn. 4:18b)

- Then no Christian should fear God.

- Is that right?
First, the scriptures are being taken out of context ...

MORE TO THE POINT:

Fear of God - *as God* - is far from wrong and is in fact - *a righteous understanding* of His true nature in the universe.
Fear of God is Righteous

Acts 10:35 – “...in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.”

Acts 9:31 – “walking in the fear of Lord”

2 Cor.7:1 – “perfecting holiness in fear”
Ps. 111:10 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do {His commandments} His praise endures forever.”

Job 28:28 – “Behold...the fear of the Lord, *that* is wisdom; and to depart from evil *that* is understanding.”
Ps. 9:10 – “...Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...”

Eccl 12:13 - {and} “when all has been heard, {is:} fear God and keep his commandments ... is also the conclusion of the matter.”
During WWII F.D.R. once famously said that "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!"

The Savior said- "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do..."
The *Only* Thing We Have to Fear...

“But I will warn you [*there is One*] whom [*you should*] *fear*: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into Hell; yes, I tell you, *Fear Him*!”

There is One who is *WORTHY* of our fear. **ALMIGHTY GOD!**

Jesus is speaking specifically of the Divine Authority and Perfect Justice of God.

Not of his character.

GOD IS LOVE...

BUT LOVE IS **NOT** LICENCE.

LOVE IS **NOT** PERMISSIVENESS.

A LOVING GOD IS CERTAINLY **NOT** A GOD WHO PERMITS SIN TO CONTINUE WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES...
Gross Misunderstanding

- Many folks, most folks today STILL misinterpret the meaning of *fear* in regard to God.

- They interpret the authority of God or fear of God as a *detriment* to one’s happiness and an *obstruction* to one’s freedom.

- It is precisely the *opposite*. 
Fear of God – A Blessing!

For example in Genesis 42:18, Joseph wins his brothers' trust and restores his family’s peace when he declares he is a “God-fearing man.”

Gen 42:18 - Now Joseph said to them on the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God…"
Fear of God – A Blessing!

- The midwives feared God that they obeyed him instead of the authorities by sparing the Hebrew babies (Exodus 1:17) (LIFE!)

- Exod. 1:17 – “But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.”
Fear of God – A Blessing!

- By way of contrast- Pharaoh brought disaster on his nation because he did not fear God (Exod. 9:29-31). (DEATH!)

- Exod. 9:30 - ...“But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God..."
Moses chose his leaders to help him on the basis that they feared God and wouldn't take bribes (Exod. 18:21) and he told the Hebrews that the reason God had led them through the Exodus in a terrifying display of his power so that they wouldn't forget His authority and sin. (Exod. 20:20).
Fear of God – A Blessing!

In fact, the Mosaic Law cites “fear of God” as a reason to treat the disabled and elderly honorably and faithfully (Leviticus 19:14, 32).
Fear of God – A Blessing!

Lest you think it’s all O.T. -

Paul said ALL Christians are to “cleanse them-selves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Cor. 7:1).

Peter said in 1 Pet. 2:17 – “Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”
In truth, if someone fears God, that person is much more likely to live a God-honoring life, keeping their commitments and treating others with the grace God has shown them...

In fact, Romans 3, a classic chapter on sin, says that mankind’s chief sin is that we "have no fear of God at all" (Rom. 3:18).
“Unfortunately, many people presume that the world is the ultimate threat and that God's function is merely to offset it. How different this is from the Biblical position that God is the supreme power in this universe .... When we assume that the world is the ultimate threat, we give it unwarranted power. But in truth, the world's threats are temporary...
When we disrespect God or fail to fear His authority as Supreme in the universe, we reduce him to the world's equal .... As I walk with the Lord, I discover that God’s ominous threat is not to me as his creation, but to my ego and my sinful nature. His infinite authority and power are displayed to rescue me from my delusions of self-righteousness, and reveal the truth that sets me free."
What About Unbelievers?

- Unbelievers experience a different type of “fear.” (Servile Fear)
- For the unbeliever, their fear of God is the fear of the judgment of God and eternal death, and eternal separation from God (Lk. 12:5; Heb. 10:31).
If one is **NOT** under the redemptive blood of Jesus, if they *remain* outside of the grace of His Kingdom, there *remains* what the Hebrew writer calls in Heb 10:27 – “a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.”
Jude 1:15 - God will “execute {His} judgment upon all {the ungodly}, and [He will] convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”
Terrifying Judgment

- The wrathful side of God’s Justice, is reserved for those who...
- “…are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness.” (Rom 2:8)

HAVE YOU OBEYED THE GOSPEL?
Four Values of Holy Fear

1) “Fear of the Lord” is not rooted in doubt, but is rooted in our confidence and assurance as his adopted children.

It is this type of fear and respect that a child has for their father – and the knowledge that He is always watching over us.... “Abba Father!”
2) “Fear of the Lord” is also rooted in our limited but respectful knowledge of His matchless Character. We are mere men. God is God... His wonders and His awesome nature, inspire deep respect in us. And cause us to live in a way that brings Him His due glory. It’s a blessing.
3) Fear of God is also rooted in our desire for **unity** with God. The reason we **hate sin** is because that creates **distance** between ourselves and our God. That distance is sin’s separation...Holy Fear of being cut off from the blessed union, **draws us back** when tempted to sin.
4) Fear of God is rooted in our appreciation for God’s Holiness. God is Holy and the gift of Holy Fear strikes within us a deep awareness of this holiness, as well as a deep appreciation that we must be seek to be holy even as He is Holy...
Christian’s Fear

For the believer, the fear of God is not the irrational fear of the unknown, but a reverent fear for the One who has lovingly revealed Himself in the creation of His universe, and the recreation of mankind through the substitutionary death of His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.
Heb. 12:28-29

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.”
Prov. 1:7

- “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.”
- Until we understand who God is - and unless we develop a reverential fear of Him, we remain “UNWISE.”
- We will not obey Him and we cannot be the beneficiaries of His perfect love.
Deut. 10:12, 20-21 records, “And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Fear the LORD your God and serve Him...”

(BIBLE 101)
TRUE Wisdom

Hold fast to him and take your oaths in His name. He is your praise; He is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.”
TRUE Wisdom

“Do you not even fear God?”