

Sin of Fear

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Introduction

1. Revelation 21:8; Matthew 10:28;
2. Why is it wrong to fear when we are told to fear God?
 - a. Ecclesiastes 12:13 we are told to fear God
 - b. Matthew 10:28 we are told we are not to fear
 - c. Could it be that there are two different kinds of fear mentioned in our Bibles?
3. Are we afraid of:
 - a. People? Matthew 10:28; 28:19-20
 - b. Saying the wrong thing? Acts 24:25
 - c. Doing the wrong thing?
 - d. Is there a sin of doing nothing? Are we happy with this sin and think we can go to heaven while participating in this sin? Matthew 25:41-45
4. Let us look at the character, the causes and the consequences of fear

II Introduction

1. The character of fear
 - a. Meaning three words are translated “fear.”
 - i. Phobos – first had the meaning of flight that which is cause by being scared but it also carried the idea of reverential fear. Context tells us which meaning to use.
 - ii. Deilia – fearfulness in 2 Timothy 1:7. That spirit is not given us of God. The word denotes cowardice and timidity and is never used in a good sense.
 - iii. Eulabeia signifies firstly caution; then reverence, godly fear, Heb. 5:7; especially holy fear, that mingled fear and love which, combined, constitute the piety of man toward God; the O.T. places it emphasis on fear, the N.T. ... on the love, through there was love in the fear of God’s saints then, as there must be fear in their love now.
 - b. Thus we can see that fear is basically used in two ways.
 - i. Fear that results in being scared, or being a coward Matthew 10:28; destructive fear
 - ii. Reverential fear which comes from our love and respect for God! Eccl 12:13; constructive fear
 - c. God is concerned about events, people and circumstances which cause a Christian to be afraid and prevent him from doing his duty. Matthew 25:26-28 Psalm 48:3-6
 - d. Those who are wise (Psalm 64:9), walk properly (Psalm 86:11), and worship acceptably (Psalm 96:6), will characterize this reverential fear.
2. The cause of fear
 - a. A lack of faith Rom 3:1-18 They had no fear of God because they would not recognize Him as God; Matthew 8:26; Mark 4:40
 - b. Difficulties will cause fear in some Job 1:9-11; Psalm 27:3
 - c. How to change fear from destructive to constructive 1 John 4:18
 - d. Ingratitude will cause fear of God to subside Jeremiah 5:23-24; Psalm 115:11-15
 - e. A false sense of security will cause fear to flee in some Eccl 8:12; Song 3:8
3. The consequences of fear
 - a. Destructive fear brings about discouragement Jeremiah 12:5; Numbers 21:4; Nehemiah 4:10
 - b. Doubt Deut 20:1; Matt 28:20 will He leave us?

- c. When this type of fear comes upon us we will never accomplish what God would have us to do! Proverbs 1:24-31
- d. Hope Psalm 118:6; Hebrews 13:5-6 Psalm 23:4
- e. Trust 1 John 5:18-20
- f. Opportunities Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; Psalm 111:10
- g. Obedience Eccl 12:13; Phil 2:12

III Conclusion

1. The choice is ours, will we be controlled by a destructive fear, or we can fear God and keep His commandments.
2. His commands have strength, hope and will give us courage. Romans 6:16-18
3. Why would anyone choose to be a slave to fear – especially a Christian?

Source: MSOP 2004 lecture by Ronnie Hayes; Sermon outlines by Tom Holland on 2 Timothy and Revelation