

## *Fearing God*

*"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." C.S. Lewis*

- I. An understanding of the fear of the Lord is something that we must all mature in as we learn to live in awe, devotion and worship of Him. God does not want his children to remain ignorant of what it means to live under his Lordship on a daily basis. To the degree that a believer lives in their understanding of what it means to fear God, is the measure that determines our seriousness in living well for Him.

Psalm 111

*"To fear God is to live in the reality of His holiness, His sovereignty, and His Judgment of sin. It is to love God, respect Him, reverence Him, adore Him hold Him in awe, and worship Him. And that can only be done by loving His Son the Savior (John 5:23). John MacArthur*

- A. A mature fear of the Lord honors the Son by staying active in heart devotion to the Son through prayer, putting into practice his Word, honoring the body of Christ and loving one another as expressions of true faith in Christ.

John 5:23

Romans 6:18,22

Hebrews 11:6

- B. A mature fear of the Lord does not settle for anything less than God's best as believers reap the joy of truly reverencing the one and only true God. It understands that what God offers is of much greater worth than what the world offers to satisfy the ache of the soul for pleasure, purpose and meaning.

Proverbs 9:10; 10:27; 14:27; 15:16; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; 23:17

- II.** An understanding of the fear of the Lord is something that God works to instill in us as we learn to honor him. God gives us the power we need to work out our salvation with fear and trembling so that we can live according to his good purpose in all matters (Phil. 2:12-13).

1 Sam. 2:30  
Prov. 23:17

- A.** We learn to honor the Lord by keeping in remembrance everything he has done for us past, present and future. We are to value everything that God has done, does and will do for us, so that we do not lose our reverence for him.

Psalm 111  
Deut. 4:9-10

- B.** We learn to honor the Lord by staying honest before him about our sin. The fear of the Lord should compel us to avoid evil because of his love and faithfulness toward all whose sins have been atoned for through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 16:6  
1 John 1:9

- III.** An understanding of the fear of the Lord should instinctively evoke in us responsive, reverential, and joyful actions that ought to define us more and more as we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is essential that we live godly lives before others, showing them that we take being in a relationship with Him very seriously.

Malachi 3:16-18

*"The fear of the Lord is knowing that I live in coram deo, before the face of God. It is knowing that the Holy God sees every aspect of my life. The result is that we live knowing that we are seen. We live publicly, and follow Christ in joyful and reverential obedience."*  
Ed Welch