

The Fear of Man

Week 2-Shame in the Fear of Man

Review:

1. Proverbs 29:25

2. 3 Main Reasons Scripture Gives that We Fear People:
 - a. We fear people because they can expose and humiliate us.
 - b. We fear people because they can reject, ridicule and despise us.
 - c. We fear people because they can attack, oppress, or threaten us.

STEP 1 Recognize that the fear of man is a major theme both in the Bible and in your own life.

3. The Fear that comes from shame.

4. Shame of Sin

5. Shame of Being Victimized or Sinned Against

6. What is the difference between the two?

7. Shame in Secular Culture

8. Hiding and Spying

“Everyday is Halloween. Putting on our masks is a regular part of our morning ritual, just like brushing our teeth and eating breakfast. The masquerade, however, is anything but festive. Underneath the masks are people who are terrified that there will be an unveiling. And, indeed, the masks and other coverings will one day be removed”.-Ed Welch

9. Luke 28:28-30

10. God's Answer to Shame

11. Homework: To see a little more of the fear of man in you

- a) “Consider ways that your private life is different from your public life. Are there sins that you can easily confess to God, but would be very difficult to share with another person? Are there things about yourself that you simply don't want other people to know? These questions might reveal some of the roots of shame-driven fear of man in your life.”

- b) Consider some of the strategies you use to cover yourself, and remember that most people wear multiple layers.

- c) Have you ever heard the sermon illustration about the five men who received a prank call saying, “They know what you've done. Leave town immediately!”? By evening, four of them had left town. The reason they were controlled by the prank caller was that their consciences condemned them. Does your conscience condemn you? If so, confess your sin before God and ask him for power to change. A clear conscience is a great blessing and one way to begin to root out the feat of other people.

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Welch, Edward T. *When People Are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer-Pressure, Codependency and the Fear of Man* (P & R Publishing: New Jersey, 1997).