

Greater Works Christin Church

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The Fear of the Lord, Part 3

Proverbs 8:13 (NET)

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; I hate arrogant pride and the evil way and perverse utterances.

Note: This above passage is of course our key passage for this series. We want to develop a proper “Fear of the Lord” in order for us to be a people of true Godliness, and righteousness. We as a people must come to love the things that God loves, and we must come to hate those things that God hates. Here we see some things that God hates.

God Hates:

1. *Evil*
2. *Pride*
3. *Arrogance*
4. *The Evil Way*
5. *Perverse Utterances (speech)*

Proverbs 3:7

Do not be wise in your own estimation; fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

Proverbs 16:6

Through loyal love and truth iniquity is appeased; through fearing the LORD one avoids evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NET)

13 Having heard everything, I have reached this conclusion: Fear God and keep his commandments, because this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God will evaluate every deed, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Note: The “conclusion of the whole matter (NKJV)” is to “Fear God and keep His commandments”! The book of Ecclesiastes deals with the subject of “Life.” The conclusion of the matter would be the whole of our life. To “Fear God and keep His commandments” is the most important thing in life. “this is the whole duty of man.” There is nothing else more important than this. This is the reason we exist: to fear the Lord.

Questions: Why is Fearing God and Obeying His Commandments the “whole duty of man”?
What are your thoughts on this?

What God Loves

1 Peter 2:17 (NET)

Honor all people, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Note: As we have already stated, to fear the Lord is to hate evil, pride, arrogance, the evil way and the perverse mouth. Since these are the things that God hates, and we are to be like Him, we must also seek those things that God loves, and love them as He loves them. In this passage Honoring people, loving the family of believers, honoring the king (those in positions of authority) and fearing God goes hand in hand?

Here we catch a glimpse of the heart of God in this area. The fear of God includes the love and honoring of people. We will never have a proper Fear of the Lord without a love for those He loves.

Deuteronomy 10:15 (NET)

However, only to your ancestors did he show his loving favor, and he chose you, their descendants, from all peoples – as is apparent today.

Note: It was because God loved Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that He chose them from among all the peoples of the earth.

Zephaniah 3:16-17 (NET)

16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Don’t be afraid, Zion! Your hands must not be paralyzed from panic!

17 The LORD your God is in your midst; he is a warrior who can deliver. He takes great delight in you; he renews you by his love; he shouts for joy over you.”

Note: God loves Jerusalem (the city of His people), and promises to be in Her midst, and to rejoice over Her with gladness, and dancing. Remember this is the same God that loves us, and rejoices over us as well.

Romans 5:8 (NET)

But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NET)

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us,
5 even though we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you are saved! –

Note: God Loves Sinners! God loves the lost so very much that He sacrificed His own Son for us.

1 John 3:1 (NET)

(See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called God's children – and indeed we are! For this reason the world does not know us: because it did not know him.

1 John 3:17 (NET)

But whoever has the world's possessions and sees his fellow Christian in need and shuts off his compassion against him, how can the love of God reside in such a person?

1 John 4:7-11 (NET)

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God.

8 The person who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him.

10 In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

11 Dear friends, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:12-16 (NET)

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God resides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we reside in God and he in us: in that he has given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

15 If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God resides in him and he in God.

16 And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has in us. God is love, and the one who resides in love resides in God, and God resides in him.

Note: These passages make it abundantly clear. We are to love people. We are to love the brethren. We are to love one another. We are to love sinners. We are to love God. We are to love the people of God. We are to love Jerusalem. We are to love who and what God loves.

Note: When we study the "Fear of the Lord" we face a strange complexity. First we are told to "Fear God." Then we are told that God is love, and that we are to love God, and that there is no fear in love. How are we to Love God and Fear God at the same time? I hope I can explain this in a manner that will be easy to understand.

We are to love God first. This is because of His great love for us. We are obligated to have a love for the Greater One. This love for the Greater One casts out all fear. This is the fear of lesser or lower things. The Fear of the Lord comes in because again He is the Greater One. This fear is a deep respect, reverence and awe of a being that is immeasurably greater than any man. The proper fear of the Lord is not to be "afraid" of the Lord, but instead to stand in the

greatest amount of Awe that we can have for anyone or anything. It is to understand His great value and worth. To fear God is to know Him as GOD. Not some lower entity, but the One who upholds the entire universe with His word. This is not a mere man that we are to fear, but it is the God and creator of the universe that we are to fear. This comes from a lower being to a Greater Being. Once this accomplished, it cancels out all other fear of the lower things, because we realize that God is for us, so no one can be against us! The fear of these lesser things vanish in the Fear of the Lord. This gives us the ability to love everyone, for we no longer fear them.

Psalms 45:6-7 (NET)

6 Your throne, O God, is permanent. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.
7 You love justice and hate evil. For this reason God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy, elevating you above your companions.

Questions: What are other things that God loves (things not listed)? Why do you feel God loves these things?

Love is why we believe in Healing and Miracles

Matthew 14:14 (NET)

As he got out he saw the large crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 9:35-38 (NET)

35 Then Jesus went throughout all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and sickness.
36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were bewildered and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
38 Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest-ready fields."

Mark 1:40-42 (NET)

40 Now a leper came to him and fell to his knees, asking for help. "If you are willing, you can make me clean," he said.
41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be clean!"
42 The leprosy left him at once, and he was clean.

Mark 6:34 (NET)

As Jesus came ashore he saw the large crowd and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he taught them many things.

Luke 7:12-16 (NET)

12 As he approached the town gate, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother (who was a widow), and a large crowd from the town was with her.

13 When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep."

14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and those who carried it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

15 So the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

16 Fear seized them all, and they began to glorify God, saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us!" and "God has come to help his people!"

Note: Notice what this miracle did. It caused fear to come upon the people. A fear that produced praise for God in the people present. Is there any wonder at the type of fear this was. It was of course the Fear of the Lord, since it pushed the people to praise God. It was a miracle birthed from compassion (love) that produced a Godly Fear in these people. This is one of the reasons why we seek the miracles of God to flow in this church. We want people to come into contact with Jesus, to get saved and come to a proper Fear of the Lord. As we can see from this above text, this can happen when the power of God is demonstrated in, and among the people.

Questions: 1 Corinthians 12 outlines the 9 Gifts of Holy Spirit, while Galatians 5 speaks of the Fruit of the Spirit. Both are important for showing who God is. Why is it important to have the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit together? Can you have one without the other? If yes, why? If no, why?

Conclusion:

Matthew 22:35-40 (NET)

35 And one of them, an expert in religious law, asked him a question to test him:

36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

37 Jesus said to him, "***Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.***"

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 The second is like it: '***Love your neighbor as yourself.***'

40 All the law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Note: The "Fear of the Lord" is in part to do God's will (keep His commandments). Here we see how this is truly accomplished. To first love God, then to love your neighbor fulfills all of God's law. To have a love for God, and then our neighbor, is to have a proper "Fear of the Lord."

Questions: In this passage we find Love fulfills the Law and the Prophets. Why is this so? How does Love fulfill the Law and the Prophetic scriptures?