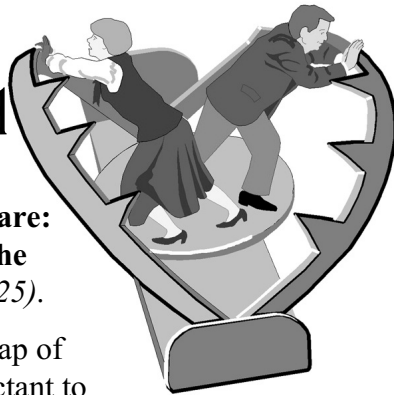


The Fear of Man and the Fear of God

Psalm 112

**“The fear of man bringeth a snare:
but whoso putteth his trust in the
LORD shall be safe” (Prov. 29:25).**



How we must avoid Satan’s trap of fearing man! Why are we so reluctant to share Christ with another or hand out a gospel tract or take a bold, uncompromising stand for the truth? Is it not because we are afraid of what people might say or think or do? We find ourselves thinking like this: “What will they think of me? What will they say? Will they get angry? Will they be pleased? I’m afraid of what they might do to me! Will they be upset or offended? Will they still have a good relationship with me? What will they want me to say? What will they want me to do? Where will they want me to go? I’m afraid they will not be pleased with my actions! They might frown on what I am doing! I hope they will really approve of what I’m about to do!”

That is the **fear of man**. **But what is the fear of God?** To answer this question, simply read the above sentences again and each time substitute the word “God” for the word “they.”

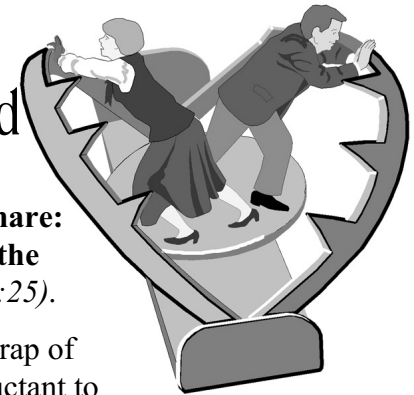
May our words, deeds and thoughts be governed by the fear of God. On two occasions Abraham lied about Sarah being his wife (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-11). Abraham chided king Abimelech by saying, “I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place!” However, the fear of God did not find a place in Abraham’s heart, only the fear of man. God certainly could have protected Abraham without his lies and deception! Later, in the greatest trial of his life (the offering of his beloved son Isaac), Abraham truly learned to fear God, believing that God was so great that to disobey Him was unthinkable (Gen. 22:12)!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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