

Teen Topics Fear (Part 5)

The Issue:

There is one fear that many people experience that is rarely ever talked about. It is a fear that affects the decisions we make, the things we do, the places we go, and the things we say. This fear can be referred to as the “fear of man.” This is a fear that causes us to worry too much about what people think of us, and as a result, live our lives centered on making people happy. This fear takes our focus off of what it should be, and can easily rob us from being who God wants us to be.

What does the Bible say?

> Read John 12:42-43. What did the believers not do and what did they fear would happen if they did (v. 42)? They did not confess Christ out of fear of being kicked out of the synagogue.

- What was the heart issue these believers had (v. 43)? They loved the praise of their friends more than the praise of God.

> What is the result of the fear of man according to Proverbs 29:25? What does this mean? The fear of man brings a snare.

It gets us in trouble; makes us do things we should not do.

> How did Moses overcome the fear of man (Heb. 11:27)? He kept his focus on God; he was not worried what people thought.

> What goal did the Christians have in I Thessalonians 2:4 (and why)? To please God, not man, b/c God knows our hearts.

What should I do?

Falling for peer pressure, missing opportunities to share the gospel, and not standing up for what is right are all signs of the fear of man. Has the fear of man affected you? We must realize that we are accountable to God, not those around us. Rather than fearing the opinions that people may have of us, let us focus on what God thinks of us and focus on pleasing Him with our lives!

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