



Message Reflections

May 19, 2019

***Fear of man will prove to be a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.***

Proverbs 29:25

In the book, ***When People Are Big and God Is Small***, by Ed Welch, he writes autobiographically, *"I found that people were big, my desires for self-glory were even bigger, and God was small. I care more about the praise of men than the praise of God. I was a worshipper of people, hoping that they would give me the blessing I desired. I found that I needed [people] for my purposes more than I loved them. The path away from the fear of man was the path of confession of sin and repentance. There were no other options."*

Have you ever known someone who was a people pleaser? What was their life like?

As you examine your own life, which of these "fear of man" characteristics may be affecting you?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overly competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily embarrassed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Control issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-dependency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shyness | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of failure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insecure | <input type="checkbox"/> Given to gossip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoidance issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Reactionary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over-sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't handle rejection well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-conscious | |

What are some of the difficulties you have experienced because of your "fear of man" problem?

The cure for overcoming your “fear of man” is to put your trust completely in God.

Proverbs 3:5-8 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.”*

What are some steps you can take to live in the fear of the Lord and to trust Him completely?

Take a moment to pray: asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any parts of your life that need to be addressed, and for the guidance and strength to take steps toward overcoming any tendencies to fear man over fearing God. Along with this, pray He will grow your trust in Him so that you will fear God above all else.

Eric