

“Living in Fear...of God”

1 Peter 1:17

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- *“Fear” is “distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, or pain, whether the threat is real or imagined.”*
- Top 100 Phobia List
- Politicians use fear to garner votes
- Who or what we fear exerts control over what we do in life.
- Review of ways of handling pressure of living in PC world
 - *“Think straight”*
 - *“Keep your cool”*
 - *“Be true to your calling as God’s holy people”*

“Living in fear...of God”

A. Stated: “Conduct yourselves...in fear”

- 1 Peter 1:17-- *‘And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, **conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear.**’*
1. **Many Christians live in the “fear of man!”**
 - Proverbs 29:25-- *“The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.”*
 2. **We are to live in “ the fear of the LORD!”**
 - a. **Most foundational of all spiritual virtues.**
 - Proverbs 9:10-- *—“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*
 - Proverbs 14:26-27— *“In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.”*
 - Proverbs 19:23-- *“The fear of the LORD leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.”*
 - Deuteronomy 5:29-- *—“Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever.”*
 - Deuteronomy 10:12-- *—“And now Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”*
 - b. **What does it mean to “fear the LORD”?**
 - 1) Most define it as *“reverential trust”*
 - Psalm 33:8-- *“Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.”*
 - 2) Attempt to take the *“fear”* out of *“fear”*—no reason to be *“afraid”* of God.
 - Romans 8:1-- *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”*
 - 3) Putting a little bit of fear back into the *“fear of God”*
 - Hebrews 12:28-29-- *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire!”*

B. Supported: "Why should we be a little bit afraid of God?"

1. As our heavenly Father, He disciplines us.

- 1 Peter 1:17-- *"And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear."*

- a. **We call on God as our Father**
 - Matthew 6:9-- *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."*
 - Galatians 4:6-- *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father!'"*

- b. **Our heavenly Father knows and meets our needs.**
 - Matthew 6:31-32-- *"Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."*
 - Matthew 7:11-- *"If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"*

- c. **But our heavenly Father also disciplines us.**
 - 1) Experience of David
 - Proverbs 3:11-12-- *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest his correction; for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights."*
 - Psalm 32:3-4 -- *"When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer."*
 - Psalm 32:5-6-- *"I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin."*

 - 2) Applied to us
 - Hebrews 12:7-11-- *"If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."*

 - 3) Purpose: So that we might partake of His holiness

2. As an impartial judge, God holds us accountable!

- 1 Peter 1:17-- *"And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear."*

- a. **Day of Accountability: Judgment seat of Christ**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:9-10-- *"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

 - 1) Not to determine our eternal destiny
 - 2) But to judge the quality of our works and then reward

b. Full disclosure of all the facts

- 1 Corinthians 4:3-5-- *“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.”*
- Hebrews 4:13 -- *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*
- Luke 22:2-5-- *“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the housetops. And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom to fear: Fear Him, who after He has killed has the power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him.”*

c. God will judge us impartially

- 2 Chronicles 19:7-- *“Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes.”*
- Ephesians 6:9 -- *“And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”*
- Colossians 3:25-- *“ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”*

d. Judgment will be by fire

- 1 Corinthians 3:13-15-- *“each man’s works will become evident; for the day will show it because it is revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of the each man’s work. If any man’s work, which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”*

e. The prospects of being held accountable and perhaps losing rewards should put a little bit of fear in us

f. Unbelievers should be terrified at the thought of future judgment

- 2 Corinthians 5:11a-- *“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men”*