

THE FEAR OF MAN

Proverbs 29:25

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The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted. Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man is being more impressed with man’s reaction to our actions than with God’s reaction.” Joy Dawson

What can you and I do about the fear of man?

1. Recognize that the fear of man is a real issue.

A. We have a tendency to walk by sight over faith.

Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” John 11:40

B. We have a tendency to value the temporal over the eternal.

...considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:26

2. Identify the areas in which the fear of man is manifested.

A. We often succumb when we sense ridicule.

And some also of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him and began to engage in discussion. And some said, “What is this babblers with his scrap-heap learning trying to say?” Acts 17:18

B. We often succumb when we sense isolation.

At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. 2 Timothy 4:16

C. We often succumb when we sense loss.

“If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar.” John 19:12

D. We often succumb when we sense physical harm.

But again he was denying it. And after a little while the bystanders

were again saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too." But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" Mark 14:70-71

3. Choose to trust the LORD.

A. God has called us to be His witnesses.

B. God will honor those who honor Him.

But the Lord is with me like a dread champion; Therefore my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will be utterly ashamed, because they have failed, with an everlasting disgrace that will not be forgotten. Jeremiah 20:11

C. God is blessed when we take a stand for Him.

"Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." Acts 7:56

Will you choose to live for the approval of God over man?