

What Are You Afraid Of?

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **October 27, 2024**



What are you afraid of? An honest answer would be “many things” because fear is stalking the streets. Fear was introduced in a new way with the Covid pandemic, but while the virus receded, fear has continued to grow. Many of us now live in more anxiety, concern, and fear than we used to, and it’s important to recognize whether those fears are reasonable or irrational. We also need to acknowledge the Church has become very fearful. People of faith have willingly receded into the shadows in the face of cultural manipulation and pressure. Today, when Jesus is prohibited from the public square, it’s called “tolerance.” But when we speak of His principles and boundaries, it’s frequently called “hate speech.” Church, we need to wake up! The suppression of God’s truth is not tolerance. It’s wickedness. We need a change of heart and to know that God is not intimidated by our fears. Jesus is still the Prince of Peace. He has solutions for all the ills before us, **if** we will cooperate with Him. The choices are not complicated: We will either yield to the Spirit of Christ, or we will serve the spirit of antichrist—we each serve one or the other. When we reject God individually, corporately, or as a nation, tremendous suffering results. So, the remedy we have is a trust transfer—transferring our belief from anything else we are trusting in for our security and wellbeing to the *only One* who can deliver us.

***“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”*** Isaiah 12:2

I. ESSENTIAL FEAR — THE FEAR OF GOD

Exodus 18:21 *But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.*

Ecclesiastes 8:13 *Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.*

A. Definition: An attitude of reverence and awe toward God precipitated by an understanding of the holiness, justice, grace, and love of God.

***Has your definition of the “fear of God” ever changed? If so, explain how and why.**

B. Accountability Is an Authority Issue

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

Galatians 6:7-10 ⁷*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Matthew 16:27 *For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.*

***How have you seen the principle of reaping and sowing show up in your life or the life of someone you know?**

C. Learning to Fear God

1. Begins with Truth Of/About Ourselves

Revelation 3:17-18 (Laodicea) ¹⁷*You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*

2. Establishes a Response

John 2:1-5 ¹*On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, “They have*

no more wine." ⁴ "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "**Do whatever he tells you.**"

***What are some practical ways Christians can challenge the “truths” in our culture (without getting pulled into them) and point people back to God’s Truths?**

II. OUR RESPONSE (EXPRESSIONS OF OUR RESPONSE TO FEAR GOD)

A. Personal Choices

1. Money

Hebrews 13:5 *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

2. Sex

Romans 1:18–24 ¹⁸ *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*

²⁰ *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

²⁴ *Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

3. Power

Jeremiah 5:27-28 *Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful ²⁸ and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not plead the case of the fatherless to win it, they do not defend the rights of the poor.*

***We must accept the boundaries God gives us, or we will be set on a path of destruction. How have you seen God’s boundaries protect you in your life?**

B. The Body of Christ — The Bride of Christ

Revelation 19:7 *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*

C. Salt & Light

Luke 12:8-9 ⁸ *“I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. ⁹ But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God.”*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NASB) ¹³ *The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. ¹⁴ For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*

***How do you think the fear of God is evidenced in the body of Christ and in the individual life of a Christian?**

PRAYER

Almighty God, we submit to Your authority and power. Forgive us for our rebellion and stubbornness. Grant us understanding hearts and open our eyes to see Your majesty, that we might walk uprightly before You. May the fear of God grow within us, and may the fear of men diminish. Give us a boldness to honor You in all we do and say. In Jesus’ name, amen.