



Fear God, Not Government

1 Peter 2:13-17

Three Reasons why we are to fear God and NOTHING else:

1. **We fear God alone because of His ultimate authority.**
 - a. Because we fear God alone (who has ultimate authority), we have total security in Him.
2. **We fear God alone because of His ultimate justice.**
 - a. Because we fear God alone (who will bring ultimate justice), we can completely trust in Him.
3. **We fear God alone because of His ultimate goodness.**
 - a. Because we fear God alone (who is ultimately good), we find everlasting delight in Him.

Sermon Discussion Questions – November 1st, 2020

1. Thinking back on last week's discussion, how did you do this past week when it comes to honoring those whom you might disagree with? How about regarding political candidates you disagree with? How can you continue to grow in this area this week, particularly as we face election day?
2. What are you most tempted to fear in your life or in the world? To phrase it another way, if you were going to be afraid of anything, what would that be? Is there anything you've been tempted to fear, specifically as election day in America approaches and plays out in the days ahead?
3. What is your typical response to fear when it arises in your life? After this week's message, how are you challenged to respond differently? What help do you need in order to respond in the way God has called believers to handle fear?
4. Is there anyone in your life or in the world whom you are prone to view as if they were in a higher position of authority, than God? Read Daniel 3:16-18 & 6:23, Isaiah 40:15-17 & 22-23, and Matthew 10:26-33. How might a biblical understanding of God's ultimate authority impact how you view those earthly authorities? What encouragement can we find from these passages?
5. We can easily lose sight of who alone has ultimate authority in the world. Read Proverbs 14:26. What can we do to remind ourselves, particularly in the times when we're tempted to believe otherwise, that God alone is our ultimate and secure authority?
6. Can you think of a time when you faced a fear-inducing situation and the Lord provided you with everything you needed to endure with delight? How did you experience the Lord's grace in that circumstance?

7. Why might it be “uncharacteristic” for a follower of Jesus to be overcome by fear? (NOTE: for this question, we’re not speaking specifically about clinical anxiety where someone might not have the ability to fight fear without help from counselors or medicine.)
8. What might it look like to trust God completely when we’re experiencing suffering, injustice or various kinds of evil? Have you seen anyone model this well in the past that you’d like to model your life after?
9. Read 1 Peter 2:22-23 & Romans 12:14-21. What might it look like for a believer to trust in and wait for God’s perfect justice while living in a world that is unjust? On the contrary, how might we determine whether we are to pursue or do justice as the opportunity arises, rather than wait for God’s coming vengeance?
10. Read Isaiah 41:10 & 41:13. What fruit might result from fearing and trusting in God, that would ultimately lead to delight, rather than despair?