

Fear of Man

Galatians 2:11-16

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1.) The Destructiveness of the Fear of Man

Read verse 12.

Read verse 13.

Read verse 14.

"In the fear of man we replace God with people. Instead of a biblically guided fear of the Lord, we fear others." —Ed Welch

Proverbs 29:25

"There is no sin so prevalent, so insidious, and so deep as the sin of fearing people more than we fear God." —Kevin DeYoung

"Have you ever struggled with peer pressure? "Peer pressure" is simply a euphemism for the fear of man. Do you find that it is hard to say no even when wisdom indicates that you should?...Are you always second-guessing decisions because of what other people might think? Are you afraid of making mistakes that will make you look bad in other peoples eyes?...Do you ever lie, especially the little white lies (gossip, slander, flattery, exaggeration, minimization, etc)? ... Lying and other forms of living in the dark are usually ways to make ourselves look better before other people....Are you jealous of other people?...Have you ever been too timid to share your faith in Christ because others might think you are an irrational fool?..." —Ed Welch

2.) The Freedom From the Fear of Man

Read verses 15-16

"Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight."—Wayne Grudem

"All your life you've been knocking on a door, "Affirm me! Love me! Tell me I'm okay!... You've been working all of your relationships so that somehow you can steal self-acceptance from other people. It never works. But in the Gospel, the door at which you have been knocking will open at last... And now, finally, the only pair of Eyes in the universe whose opinion counts... looks at you and sees an absolute beauty! Finally the door on which you've been knocking all your life has been opened at last. And now the natural world ceases to have any claim on you! Who cares what they think now! Now criticism doesn't kill you!"
—Tim Keller