

Sermon series: Fighting Fear With Fear

Text: Proverbs 29:25

Delivered: July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Joel Wood

## The Fear of Man

**BIG IDEA:** *The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.*

1. The fear of \_\_\_\_\_ lays a \_\_\_\_\_

A. The Fear Of Others Reveals That We Have A \_\_\_\_\_

B. The Need Reveals What We \_\_\_\_\_

C. Our Desires Reveal What \_\_\_\_\_ Us

D. What Controls Us Reveals What \_\_\_\_\_ Us

2. Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ In The Lord Is \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, Revelation)  
*"The most radical treatment for the fear of man is the fear of the lord. God must be bigger to you than people are."*

A. The More Time We Spend With \_\_\_\_\_, The \_\_\_\_\_ He Becomes In Our Lives

B. The Bigger \_\_\_\_\_ Becomes In Our Lives, The Smaller \_\_\_\_\_ Appear

C. The Smaller \_\_\_\_\_ Become In Our Lives, The \_\_\_\_\_ We Become To Live For God's Purpose

D. The More We Live For \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose, The More \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_ We Become.

*I have experienced a number of embarrassing situations in my life, from peeing my pants in a competition to tripping on the stage during my college graduation. I'm sure you have some as well! What would you say was the **most** embarrassing thing you have done or has happened to you? What about that moment made it more embarrassing?*

*In what **specific** ways have you seen the thoughts, opinions, or actions of others influence the lives of the people in your life or you are around? In what ways have you seen them at work in your own life? Why is it easier to spot them in someone else's life and not our own?*

*If someone were to ask you, "What do you need?" what would be your answer (there can be more than one thing)? Or maybe said another way, what is it that you really desire for yourself?*

*Have you ever considered the fact that the things that we desire quickly become things that control us? As long as \_\_\_\_\_ gives me \_\_\_\_\_ I am happy and fulfilled. Take a moment to think through the things in your life that leave you discouraged, upset, or "empty" and make a list of the people (parents, spouse, friends, colleagues, people at church, etc.) and/or events that show they are controlling your thoughts and actions.*

*We often don't consider the gravity or the impact of "fearing others" or that they have enslaved us to them. If you were to be honest, what would you say is an area of your life where you see a desire or need or person is controlling and thereby enslaving you?*

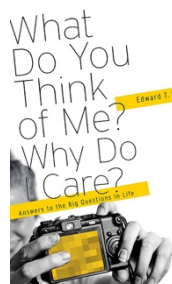
*Ed Welch says, "The most radical treatment for the fear of man is the fear of the LORD. God must be bigger to you than people are." What have you read or seen or experienced that has broadened and magnified your view of God? With your CARE Group, go around sharing the most incredible thing you know about God.*

*Our lives are like an empty cup and there's only enough room to fill it with one thing: other people or God. How does filling our lives with more of who God is and what He's like make less room for the thoughts and opinions of others? How often do we need to go to God to fill our cup?*

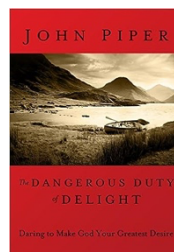
*What specific ways will these truths impact your life as you live them out?*

**FOR FURTHER READING:**

**What Do You Think Of Me? Why do I Care?**  
by Ed Welch



**The Dangerous Duty of Delight.**  
by John Piper



**You Are Special**  
by Max Lucado

