

“Fear the LORD, You His Saints” Part 1

Christian Liberty
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1. Introduction: pulling off on the lay-by of Christian Liberty

- a. **Bruce’s teaching on 10/14/16: Christian Liberty/Freedom in Christ.** *“Man needs to be free from himself and the tyranny of himself.”*
 - ✓ *“We live in the internal constraints of the Holy Spirit.”* That which was external has become internal.
 - ✓ Absorb Grace. *“Put yourself in a position to absorb grace.”*
- b. **Praying the Lord’s Prayer as a prayer of confession:** *“Hallowed be thy name.”*
 - ✓ *“make holy, treat as holy, set apart as holy, sanctify, hallow, purify.”*
- c. **Praying Psalm 51 as Confession and Psalm 103 as Forgiveness**
 - ✓ *“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.”* Ps 103:13
- d. **Do I fear the Lord? To what extent and how do I fear Him?**
 - ✓ *“(The Samaritans) feared the LORD and appointed ... priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. ³³ So they feared the LORD but also served their own gods ...”* 2 Kings 17:32
- e. **Issues the Church doesn’t want to think about.** How many sermons or teachings have you heard about the following?
 - ✓ Fear of the Lord: How often does the Bible say:
 - Love the Lord/God: in OT 15; in NT 14. Total: 29 times
 - Fear the Lord/God: in OT 95 times; in the NT 8 times. Total: 103 times or **more than 3 ½ times more often**

2. Commanded to fear the Lord

- *“You shall fear the LORD your God.”* Deut 10:20
- *“Fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness.”* Josh 24:14
- *“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for **this are the whole duty of man.**”* Eccl 12:13

3. The natural man does not fear God

- *“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one ... the way of peace they have not known. There is *no fear of God* before their eyes.”* Rom 3:11-19

4. Doesn’t the NT teach us not to fear the Lord?

- *“Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. *Do not be afraid.*’”* Matt 14:27
- *“God gave us a spirit *not of fear* but of power and love and self-control.”* 2 Tim 1:7
- *“There is *no fear* in love, but perfect love *casts out fear*. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”* 1 Jn 4:18

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5. Yet we are commanded to fear God in the NT

- “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather *fear Him* who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matt 10:28.
- “Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. *Fear God.*” 1 Pet 2:17.
- “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹ Therefore, knowing *the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.*” 2 Cor 5:10-11.
- “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the *fear of God.*” 2 Cor 7:1.
- “Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters ... with sincerity of heart, *fearing the Lord.*” Col 3:22.

6. What does it mean to “fear the Lord”?

a. In OT, fear =

- ✓ *affright, be made afraid, dreadful, put in fearful reverence, terrible act*
- ✓ *dread, great fear, terror*

b. In NT, fear = *phobos* = *fear, dread, reverence, terrified, frighten. To put to flight (Classical Gk); to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience*

c. Fear, Bow down, Praise, Glorify, Awe, Joy, Trembling!

- ✓ “You shall *fear the LORD* ... You shall **bow yourselves to him** ...” 2 Ki 17:36
- ✓ “You who *fear the LORD*, **praise Him ... glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him** ...” Ps 22:33
- ✓ “Let all the earth *fear the LORD*; let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe of him!**” Ps 33:8 “Stand in awe” = Hebrew = *fear, shrinking, afraid*
- ✓ “Serve the LORD with *fear*, and **rejoice with trembling.**” Ps 2:11
- ✓ “³ And I was with you in weakness and *in fear and much trembling*, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power ...” 1 Cor 2:2-4
- ✓ “... work out your own salvation with *fear and trembling*, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Phil 2:12-13

7. Benefits of the Fear of the Lord

a. The fear of the Lord is a demonstration that we are born again

- ✓ Surely His salvation is near to *those who fear Him* ...” Ps 85:9

b. The fear of the Lord makes us a friend of God

- ✓ “The friendship of the LORD is for *those who fear him*, and he makes known to them his covenant.” Ps 25:14

c. Those who fear the Lord are blessed, and receive his pleasure and mercy

- ✓ “He will bless *those who fear the LORD*, both the small and the great.” Ps 115:13
- ✓ “The LORD takes pleasure in *those who fear him*, in those who hope in his steadfast love.” Ps 147:11
- ✓ “His mercy is for *those who fear him* from generation to generation.” Lk 1:50