

What's it to be; Fear or Love the Lord?



In class we were writing down the things that the Lord will take care of for us:

- Seek **first** God's Kingdom; the rest follows: Mat.6:33
- *Eternal Life promised John 3:16
- *He supplies all our needs Philippians 4:19
- But not all our wants James 4:3
- *Our daily bread/food Matthew 6:11
- *Our clothes Matthew 6:28-31
- *He gives us protection Psalm 91
- *He gives us knowledge Proverbs 1:7
- *He gives us housing Proverbs 14:26

It stood out from the last two scriptures that king Solomon wrote in his proverbs 'fear the Lord'.

"The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge:" (Proverbs 1:7)

"In **the fear of the LORD** is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." (Prov.14:26)
Solomon ends his book Ecclesiastes with: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God**, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecc.12:13)

Then we read what John the apostle wrote.

John **loved the Lord** and leaned on the Lord's breast during the last supper. (John 21:20)

He wrote: "There is **no fear in love**; but perfect **love casts out fear**: because **fear torments**. He who fears is not made perfect in love. **We love him**, because he first loved us." (1John 4:18,19)

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us**." (1John 4:10)

Paul wrote to Timothy: "God has **not given us the spirit of fear**, but of power and of **love and of a sound mind**." (2Tim.1:7) A sound mind means you can think clearly, however if you fear you can make hurried, bad decisions.

If we have two people; one we fear and the other we love; then who are we automatically drawn to and who do we like to stay away from? The one we love we go to and the one we fear we might give reference to, but are likely to stay away from. People that fear their boss, hate seeing him because anything that he says irks us. Although we might like the work that we do, secretly we are looking for another job away from our boss. However, if we love our boss and our work, we like going there. Then we never have to work a day in our life as we like what we do and like the person that we work for.

Then what was the thing with king Solomon the wisest man that ever lived? He feared the Lord, but he **loved** his 700 wives and his 300 extra girlfriends.



Fear only keeps you in line for so long and then you got to get out. The Lord did not mind him having so many wives, but because he loved them, they eventually turned his heart away from the Lord whom he feared.

'Oh king, I love you. You built such a big temple for your God. Solo, will you let me build a house also for Astoreth, which is my god?

It does not have to be so big because your God is most important. There is no harm in me also having a temple, is there? You allow me and I will give you some good loving that you will never forget.' So, the king allowed her to build a temple and the next thing was; 'Oh, Solo come with me to see the beautiful building that I designed for my god. Come with me bring some flowers, we will say a prayer together and I will reward you again.' So there goes Solomon led by his you-know-what.

He must have become a tortured soul towards the end of his life and that is why he writes so many proverbs about seductive women.

"To deliver you from the strange woman, which flatters with her words; For her house is on a slope towards death... None that go to her return again" (Proverb 2:16,18,19)

"The lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a sword." (Proverb 5:3,4)
"By means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread." (Proverb 6:26) Etc., etc.

The fear of the Lord did not keep him. When one temple was built the others followed: Moloch, Chemos, Milcom, etc. "Likewise, did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And **the LORD was angry with Solomon**, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice..." (1Kings 11:8,9)



We fear someone because we expect this person to get angry with us. "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me" (Job 3:25) The Lord got angry with Solomon because him fearing the Lord.

If he would have loved the Lord with all his heart soul, mind and strength, then his love for the Lord would have protected him, as **love is the absolute, unquestionable, greatest power in the world. Nothing can conquer love, not even a 1000 women.**

That fear drove a wedge between him and the Lord and so **he followed what he loved**, his women.

When we look at his father David, he never feared the Lord. He definitely was no angel either and also had many wives. (2Sam.5:13) But that did not interfere in his relationship with the Lord, because his life and his songs were all about loving the Lord.

“I will love you, O LORD, my strength.” (Psalms 18:1)

“LORD, I have loved the habitation of your house, and the place where your honour dwells (Psalms 26:8)

“O love the LORD, all you his saints” (Psalms 31:23)

“Let such as love your salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.” (Psalms 40:16)

“You that love the LORD, hate evil.” (Psalms 97:10) Etc.

Praise comes naturally if we love a person; “Thanks for doing that!” - If we fear them, we may be



motivated by fear, giving them honour and flowers, but our heart won't be in it and we won't naturally praise them.

How is our relation with the Lord; is it as Ezekiel writes? “They sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth, they show much love, but their heart goes after their greediness and materialism. You are to them as a **very lovely song... they hear your words, but they don't do them.**” (Ezekiel 33:31,32)

I remember being drafted in the army and when I sincerely asked a legitimate question, the sergeant barked at me with an authoritarian voice. “You are now in the army and do what you are told!” I did not appreciate him talking like that and decided to get out. After creating some difficulties, I got my discharge after about 5 or 6 weeks.

I had a chip on my shoulder about God too, as I thought that God was like that; an Authoritarian that does not put up with nonsense and I was full of nonsense. When it came to religion, I was almost like a dog that growls with his hair standing up.

It was not until I realized who Jesus was; [absolute love](#), and it dawned on me that **he was the embodiment of the Father; I understood that God the Father is not religious at all** but that man made these divisive religions. Jesus loved, because the



Father was total love. He could restore lives because the Father creates Life. Jesus gave his all, because the Father gave his all; his one and only Son.

Would I give my son for a bunch of selfish people that hate me? I don't think so, but the Father did. ‘God loved me so very much that he gave his **one and only** Son, so I would not end up in hell, but by believing in him, I'd have eternal life.’ (John 3:16) Not maybe, but absolute 100% total assurance.

The Father and Son gave their all in the hope that we'd change our ways and [learn again](#) to be loving like children to enter into his Kingdom. (Matthew 18:3) No religion, money or power can get you into God's Kingdom, but simply being a little child again. They trust, they love Jesus, they fall, they get up, they cry and then hug, they argue, but five minutes later they are again the best of friends; They can give love and encouragement like no other can.



When we really love someone, we are willing to defend them even if it might cost us our life. And we ask ourselves, ‘Am I willing to take the bullet for him?’ - “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) However, if you fear someone, you're not likely to take the bullet for them and you might step aside.

Moses the Lawgiver wrote, “That you may **love the LORD** your God, obey his voice, and may **cleave to him**: for he is your life.” (Deut.30:20 & 11:1,13,22 etc., etc) **King David said**, “As the deer longs for the water brooks, so **my soul longs for you, O God.**” (Ps.42:1)

The Father himself said, “I am the Lord your God... and **shew mercy** to thousands of them **that love me** and keep my commandments.” (Deuteronomy 5:10)



Jesus said, “You shall **love the Lord** your God **with all your heart**, with **all your soul**, and with **all your mind**. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is equal to it; you shall **love your neighbour** as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

We think God is ‘the Judge’, but he doesn't want to judge us. “He has committed all judgment to the Son.” (Jn 5:22) That's because Jesus lived with us and understands us. Although Jesus was 100% God, he was [also 100% human](#), and he refused to go along with the crowd who wanted to stone the woman with the extra-marital activities. “He that is without sin let him cast the first stone.” (John 8:7-11) Jesus said to her, “Has no man condemned you? Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

However outright disobedience causes [fear](#), because “If we continue to **sin wilfully and purposely** after that we have received Jesus' love and forgiveness, we become **fearful** with the prospect of being very ashamed when we see him;” (Heb.10:26,27 & Dan.12:2)

If we love the Lord the only concern, or call it ‘fear’ if you like, should be: ‘Am I doing the Lord's highest will in my life? Is this pleasing to the one who saved my life by taking the bullet for me? Do I need to do more or things different for his family, his children and the least of these his brethren?’ (Mat.25:35-46)

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