



Fear God: Is it Scriptural?

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
~Proverbs 1:7*

Good Question!

The question is often asked of us, "Fear God? Isn't He a loving God? What about verses such as "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) The answer is an emphatic yes; He is a loving God. He is a father who loves and cares for His children. After all, He is the Father who sacrificed His Son, for all of His children. He loves us fervently. He is the loving Father.

Is the Fear of the Lord Scriptural?

God is not only a loving Father, but He is also a caring Father. He knows the difficulties we face and wants to protect us, just as any loving father would. So He teaches His children the fear of the Lord for their protection. "Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD." (Psalms 34:11) The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. (Psalms 147:11) The Father knows His children must look solely and complete to Him for everything so, through Solomon, He makes this statement: "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (See my articles *Blessings* and *Blessings 2* for additional examples)

Fear or Dread

Isaiah writes: "The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, He is the one you are to fear, He is the one you are to dread." (Isaiah 8:13). The command, Fear God, should bring a dread and terror. There is a fearful end awaiting men and women who have not received God's provision of salvation.

*It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
~Hebrews 10:31*

Every man woman and child will stand before God on the great Day of Judgment and give an account for this or her life. For those who have not received salvation through Jesus, this will be a day filled with terror on a level they have never known.

In contrast, those who have received Jesus as their savior are "saved" from this Day of Judgment because they have already been judged in Christ. Everyone has sinned, but in the case of those who are "saved", the blood of Jesus is offered as acceptable payment for their sin.

Daddy Sir

For those who are in Christ, the fear of the Lord is not a negative thing, simply an ever present reminder that while we can be forgiven through the blood of Jesus, we are still accountable before God for our actions. In other words, even if we have received His forgiveness, we do not have a license to do as we please. You and I would live differently if we had to give the Father a complete accounting for our work at the end of each day. To find balance between love and fear look to your childhood. As children, we all loved our earthly fathers, but we feared the times of discipline (which was for our own good).

*The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are
sure and altogether righteous
~Psalms 19:9*

How do we Fear the Lord?

To fear God, we recognize that He is God, reverence and worship Him, and keep His commandments. Our duty, the reason for us to be here on earth is to fear God. He is God and to worship and honor Him as God; we do the things He tells us to do. With an earthly we would obey his commands, (or suffer the consequences), so we should do the same for our Heavenly King, the one who rules over heaven and earth.

*Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and Keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
~Ecclesiastes 12:13*

In the Amplified Bible this verse says, “All has been heard. The end of the matter is, Fear God and know that He is, revere and worship Him – and keep His commandments: for this is the whole of man...and the whole duty for every man.”

Bondage or freedom?

This is not a call to go back into legalism or bondage. This is a call for understanding: choosing to keep His commandments sets us free. We are no longer entangled in the worldly ways of doubt and fear, lack and need. Walking in the Fear of the Lord we can walk in His good plan for our life.

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
~Jeremiah 29:11*

What does this mean for me?

The 21st century is filled with people “doing their own thing”. We live in a society aptly labeled the “Me” or “I” generation. We tend not to ask what is good or even right, but “what's in it for me”. Our loving Father knows what is best for each of us. All He asks is for us to fear Him. He knows this is best for us.

*And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
~Deuteronomy 10:12*

*Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious,
~Proverbs 24:21*

Work out your Salvation

While Jesus met every one of God's requirements when He died for us, God still makes demands on us. We are called to work out or walk out our salvation. We cannot earn our salvation, (only Jesus can pay that price and the good news is that He did!), but we are to continue to live out His plan for our life. We receive our salvation from Jesus; then we continue to receive it, day by day as we walk and talk with Him. This day-by-day walk is fear of the Lord.

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed --not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,
~Philippians 2:12*

*But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him
~Luke 12:5*

Will You?

The choice is yours will you walk like the world around you, living only for themselves and for today... Or will you walk in the fear of the Lord?

*Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
~Revelation 15:4*

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