

Access Denied
“To Fear”

Introduction: Today we continue talking about the things in our lives that must not be granted access.

- Old Man/Natural Man
- Anxiety
- Today, fear-key verse

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18 NKJV

- Fear—“phobos”—alarm, terror, fright (four times in verse)

British Statesman Edmund Burke

“No passion so effectively robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear.”

Five things to explore regarding fear

I. The Torment of Fear

v. 18-“because fear involves torment”

RSV “fear has to do with punishment”

- A. This torment that is feared is the torment of punishment (kolasis/kolazo)

Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment. 2 Peter 2:9 NKJV

(punishment=torment=kolasis)

Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. " Matthew 25:45-46 NKJV

(punishment=torment=kolasis)

B. The torment that comes with fear (in John) is fear of judgment

C. So many believers live their lives in this fear

(ILL) Rapture-ready as a teen but some still today-am I ready?

D. Devastation of such fear

(ILL) Matthew 25:14-30

1. Man traveling to far country
2. Talents distributed-5/2/1-10/14/1
3. Came to settle account

"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' Matthew 25:24-25 NKJV

4. Talent taken

So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Matthew 25:28-30 NKJV

NOTE: Fear of judgment

- Moves our focus from God's mercy to God's judgment
- Paralyzes us
- It's end brings devastation

Not meant to sit stagnant in fear but rather to serve joyfully in the sphere of the Kingdom

II. The Foundation of Fear

A. Two important truths to remember

1. There is no fear in love (v. 18)

- a. Fear is characteristic emotion of someone who expects to be judged
- b. If we only see God as judge, law-giver, dominator-we will expect nothing but punishment

(ILL) Almost like abused child-head down, chin down, beaten down

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- c. When we see God as love-fear is not our primary emotion

2. We have wrongly understood love

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10 NKJV

- a. The love that removes fear of judgment is not our love for Him
- b. Honestly-if it depended on that, I would have reason for fear (never love enough)
- c. But His love for me!

(Not my works, my worship, purity of my love—His love for me!)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Romans 8:35-36 NKJV

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39 NKJV

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 1 John 3:1 NKJV

III. The Answer to Fear

- A. No fear in love
- B. God is love
- C. God abides in me and I in Him
- D. Fear is driven out
- E. Assurance is the presence of the Spirit

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 1 John 4:13 NKJV

- F. Spirit given is not one of fear

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

IV. The Destruction of Fear-Perfect Love

“Perfect love cast out fear.” (18)

A. What is “perfect” or “perfected” love?

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 1 John 4:12 NKJV

NOTE: If we love one another...His love has been perfected in us.

1. Perfect love is NOT just vertical worship
2. It entails just as importantly=horizontal forgiveness/reconciliation

B. Constant theme of Jesus-horizontal reconciliation

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24 NKJV

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15 NKJV

C. No perfect love without it

1. Maintain bitterness-will have no perfect love-fear
2. Refuse to forgive-will have no perfect love-fear

D. Perfect love however, still must begin with proper foundation

1. Not how much love/devotion I can conjure up for Him
2. It is awareness of how much He loved me

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10 NKJV

E. When I truly GET that-I can love Him and others in an appropriate manner-love is perfected and perfect love casts out all fear

V. Freedom from Fear

A. Context is Judgment Day-fear or not?

1. John discussed earlier

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. 1 John 2:28 NKJV

2. Here again

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 1 John 4:17 NKJV

3. Reason for confidence/assurance?

- Last use of phrase “kathos ek-einos”
- “as He is”

B. I am as He is—His love is perfected in me

English preacher and author John Bunyan (1628-1688) experienced a time of doubt and temptation in which he became so aware of his sinfulness that he began to doubt his salvation. But God brought to his mind the awareness of grace.

Now I sunk and fell in my spirit; and was giving up all for lost' but as I was walking up and down in the house, as a man in a most woeful state, that word of God took hold of my heart, Ye are “[justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24)] But oh, what a turn it made upon me! Now was I as one awakened out of some troublesome sleep and dream, and listening to this heavenly sentence, I was as if I had heard it thus expounded to me: Sinner, thou thinkest that because of thy sins and infirmities I cannot save thy soul, but behold My Son is by Me, and upon him I look, and not on thee, and will deal with thee according as I am pleased with him. At this I was greatly lightened in my mind, and made to understand that God could justify a sinner at any time.

C. Perfect love

1. Not that I love Him but He loves me
2. And because His love has immersed, I can love others

D. Perfect love casts out all fear

Conclusion:

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2 NKJV

See Him as He is—“kathos-ek-einos”

AND

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 1 John 4:17 NKJV

I NEED TO KNOW HIS LOVE!

FEAR HAS NO ACCESS!