

Lesson 7

The Fertilizer of Fearing God

“The biblical fear of the Lord is rich fertilizer for the fruit of godliness”

Review:

1. Godliness is inseparably linked to biblical _____

~ Scriptures to support this:

~ What is ungodliness inseparably linked to?

2. Godliness is tethered to _____ and _____ for God.

~ Scriptures to support this:

~ The Greek term for godliness means “_____.”

- Notice where the term “godliness” points and where it begins...not with you!
- Where do we always look and start when it comes to godliness?
- The Greeks understood this term as “right conduct in regard to the gods.”

~ Who God is should ultimately drive us to God and define our walk with God. (Ps 130:4; Job 1)

~ Thus, God’s character should drive our _____! (1 Pet 1:15-16)

~ Godliness is ultimately the result of a biblical fear of God. (2 Cor 7:1; 1 Pet 1:17)

~ John Murry has said “The fear of God is the soul of godliness.” What does that mean?

“The fear of God in which godliness consists is the fear which constrains (compels or powerfully produces) adoration and love. It is the fear which consists in awe, reverence, honor, and worship, and all of these on the highest level of exercise. It is the reflex in our consciousness of the transcendent majesty and holiness of God” Principles of Conduct, Pg 255; 1957

- This fear compels, constrains, and drives one’s life toward godliness
- This fear is the motivating factor that moves a life to pursue godliness
- Just like out of the heart the mouth speaks so out of the fear of God man pursues godliness
 - The fear of God is the fuel that drives the engine of godliness
 - The fear of God is the soil from which the fruit of godliness springs
 - The fear of God is the foundation on which the life of holiness is built
 - The fear of God is the core structure on which you hang the holy life

~ To fear God biblically is to see God rightfully and respond with reverence and awe (Gen 28:17; Ex 3:1-6; 14:31)

The Rich Fertilizer of Fearing God

~ A beginning definition of the fear of God is reverential _____ (Heb 12:28-29)

- A mixture of fear, veneration, wonder, and admiration that is all directed toward God (Ex 3:1-6; 14:31; 15:11; Dt 6:13-15; Ps 2:11; 79:7-9; 89:6-7; 119:120; Ecc 12:13; Lk 12:4-7; Acts 9:31; Phil 2:12-13; 2 Cor 5:11; 7:1; Eph 5:21; Col 3:22; 1 Pet 1:17; Rev 15:3-4)

~ The fear of the Lord begins with and flows out of God's character. (Dt 28:58)

~ God's character should drive our _____! (1 Pet 1:15-16)

~ Four reasons to biblically fear the Lord:

1. We fear God because of **who He is**... _____
(Ex 6:16; Deut 6:13-15; Dan 3:16-30; Rev 15:2-4; Is 40:12-26)
2. We fear God because of **what He has said**... _____
(1 Pet 1:15-16; 1 Tim 4:16-17; Josh 24:14; Psa 2:11; Jn 17:17)
3. We fear God because of **what He does**... _____
(Psa 128:1; 145:19; 147:11)
4. We fear God because of **what He will do**... _____
(1 Pet 1:17; Rev 9:1-6, 20-21)

~Essential ingredients of the fear of God (Albert N. Martin)

- Correct concepts of the _____ of God
- Pervasive sense of the _____ of God
- Constant awareness of our _____ to God

~ We will explore these ingredients in future lessons.

Homework:¹

1. Proverbs 14:27 says that the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life or a “life giving fountain.” What does that mean and how is that concept supported by the following verses? Explain how each of these verses demonstrates the blessing of fearing God.

- Psalm 103:11-15
- Psalm 111:10
- Psalm 111:5
- Psalm 128:1-4
- Psalm 145:19

2. Who God is should determine how we think-speak-live-worship (Heb 12:28-29)! To further deepen your understanding of the fear of God look up these verses and identify what is closely associated with the fear of Lord. What does this teach you about the inseparable link between God’s character and a believer’s conduct?

- Leviticus 25:17
- Joshua 24:14
- Job 28:28
- Psalm 2:11
- Psalm 33:18
- Psalm 128:1
- Psalm 147:11
- Proverbs 22:4
- Isaiah 8:13
- Zephaniah 3:7

¹ Some of this homework taken from a study guide in “The Joy of Fearing God” by Jerry Bridges

3. Read Psalm 34:11, David gives this invitation: “Come my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.” Read carefully the whole psalm especially verses 8-16. Express in your own words what David is teaching here about fearing God.

What aspects of God’s character can you identify from these verses?

Is there a connection between fearing the Lord and seeking the Lord? If so explain.

Is there anything you can learn about the fear of the Lord from this Psalm as it relates to who God is, what God says, what God does, and what God promised He will do?

Memory Verse: Proverbs 14:26