



Additional Resources:

Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*

Lou Priolo, *Pleasing People: How not to be an Approval Junkie*

Ed Welch, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest*

C.J. Mahaney, *Humility*

John Murray, *The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness*

Course Outline:

Week 1: What is the fear of man?

Week 2: What is the fear of God?

Week 3: How do we fear man?

Week 4: What do you need?

Week 5: The Bible's answer to the self esteem question.

Week 6: A new vision for life: loving God and loving neighbor

Week 7: Panel Discussion—Living and growing in the fear of the Lord

Questions? E-mail ken.barbic@gmail.com

FEAR OF MAN

Class 1: What is the Fear of Man?

"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe." (Proverbs 29:25)

*"Many of the people I've talked to also had an awakening when they saw the controlling power of other people. They awoke to an epidemic of soul called, in biblical language, 'the fear of man.' Although, they were avowed worshippers of the true God, below the surface they feared other people. That is not to say that they were terrified by or afraid of others (although sometimes they were). 'Fear' in the biblical sense is a much broader word. It includes being afraid of someone, but it extends to holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshipping other people, putting your trust in people, or needing people. ... However you put it, the fear of man can be summarized this way: We replace God with people. Instead of a biblically guided fear of the Lord, we fear others."—Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small**

1. Where and how do we struggle with the fear of man?

-In the workplace

-How we handle conflict

-In our families

-Even in the church

Diagnostic Questions from *When People are Big and God is Small* (pg 14-16):

-Have you ever struggled with peer pressure?

-Are you over-committed?

-Do you ever feel as though you might be exposed as an imposter?

-Are you always second-guessing decisions because of what other people might think? Are you afraid to risk?

-Do you ever like, especially the little white lies?

-Do you avoid people?

-When you compare yourself with other people, do you feel good about yourself?

-Have you ever been too timid to share your faith in Christ?

How have you seen fear of man in your life?

Categories of Fear of Man:

-We fear being harmed.

-We fear being rejected.

-We fear being exposed.

Who struggles with fear of man? (I Cor 10:13)

2. Why do we fear man?

-Past experience

-Pride

-Needs-based view of people

-Wrong view of what we deserve

What has contributed to your own struggle with fear of man?

3. What does Scripture say about the fear of man?

-It originated at the Fall. (Gen. 3:6-7)

-It is shortsighted and insufficient. (Luke 12:4-5)

-It is a destructive trap. (Prov. 29:25)

-It is opposed to love. (I John 4:18)

-It minimizes Christ. (Rom. 8:35, 38-39)

Examples in Scripture of those who feared man more than God:

The Fruit that fear of man produces in our lives

-Discontent

-Unhealthy dependence

-Cynicism

-Bitterness

-Lost Opportunity

-Disunity

What bad fruit have you seen in your life as a result of the fear of man?

4. Is it ever legitimate to fear man?

5. When the Gospel meets our fear

-Romans 5:5-11