

the  Venues
Go Deep

No-Fear November

"Scared of Church. Scared by Church.
Loved by God."

November 8, 2015

What has been your favorite Halloween costume?

What were your Halloween traditions?

**1. The only thing we to fear is the
"culture of fear" itself.**

Take a look at 2 Timothy 1:7

*What evidence do you see of a "spirit of fear," a
"culture of fear" in our world?*

The teaching mentioned, politics, news media,
and advertising all using fear to accomplish
their goals.

*Do you agree that these areas produce a "culture"
or a "spirit" of fear?*

2. Fear sells – even in church.

How have you seen churches (religion) use fear?

*What do you think churches are trying to
accomplish by using fear?*

How successful is the fear strategy?

Jesus entered a world of a religion that used fear.
The religion created fear by:

- 1) Showing God to be distant, angry and judgmental.

Read Deuteronomy 11:26-28 and Deuteronomy
29:18-21

What are your thoughts about this approach?

What picture of God does this approach give you?

- 2) Developing a dependent people.
The religion of the day required people to
depend on priests for their spiritual salvation
and spiritual health.

See John 2:13-16

Do you agree or disagree with this statement by Yoda?

“Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement by Gandhi?

“The enemy is fear. We think it is hate; but, it is fear.”

3. Jesus gives us something better.

What did Jesus offer in place of the religion of his day?

See Luke 15:1-2, Luke 5:13

How would you describe God to someone who asks, “What is God like?”

What help can you get from John 1:18?

Read Luke 17:20-21 in different translations.

Where does Jesus say people will find the kingdom?

Some versions of the Bible use the word “within” and some use the word “among.”

The Greek word (entos) is used one other place in the New Testament – Matthew 23:26.

How does it’s usage in Matthew help us to understand its usage in Luke?

What view do you think is correct – “within” or “among”?

What difference does it make in how you see yourself? How you see others?

How will this lesson affect how you live your life this week?