

RADIANT CHURCH | Pastor Lee Cummings

FEARLESS – Part 5

The Fear of Man

October 24 & 25, 2015

I. IMPORTANT TRUTHS

1. God leads us through His loving peace.

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

2. The devil controls us through fear.

a. It is a control mechanism that keeps us from obeying God and living as He designed.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

b. Jesus had absolutely no Fear of Man.

John 19:10-11

So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given to you from above."

c. God wants us to be able to do His will, without being controlled by the Fear of Man! The Devil wants to use Fear to control us.

II. WHY THE FEAR OF MAN IS WRONG.

1. The Fear of Man directly competes with our Fear of God as the primary motivator of our behavior and beliefs.

Proverbs 22:4

The fear of the Lord is an awareness of God's presence and intimate knowledge of everything that goes on in my life combined with the understanding that God has ultimate control of what happens in my life – not people.

Matthew 10:22–28

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his

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master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2. It causes us to compromise our beliefs and our confession of Christ.

3. It causes us to direct the purpose of our lives around the approval of people, rather than God's approval and fulfilling His will.

Luke 14:26

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Jeremiah 17:5–8

Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

4. A very important question we all must ask is: "Who am I living for – God or someone else?"

III. HOW TO OVERCOME FEAR OF MAN

1. Focus on God's power and presence.

Hebrews 13:5–6

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Psalms 16:8–10

I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

2. Be in regular, committed fellowship with strong believers, and don't have friends who put pressure on you to do the wrong thing or compromise your faith.

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Hebrews 10:24–25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. Embrace the consequences of being a Christian in an evil and ungodly world.

Matthew 16:24–25

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”