

Maranatha Baptist Church Equip University Christian Living Track Fearing and Following God

Class 3 – Why do we fear man? We fear they will expose us.

Why do we fear being exposed? (Gen. 2:25, 3:7)

- 1. Because we have <u>sinned</u>, and sin leads to <u>shame</u>.
- 2. Because of the sins of <u>others</u> against us.

How do we demonstrate our fear of being exposed?

- 1. We hide and cover.
- 2. We escape to idols rather than running to God.
- 3. We seek to <u>uncover</u> and <u>expose</u> others.

Where do these tendencies manifest themselves?

Before God

- In private
- At home—in close relationships
- At work
- At church

Shame and fear of exposure in our world today

Examples of shame and fear of exposure in Scripture

In what ways are you fearing exposure before others?

- In what ways is your private life different from your public life?
- Are there sins that are easy to confess to God, but not to another person?
- What are the things about yourself that you would rather other people not know about?
- What are your tools of avoidance?

What's the Solution?

1. The gaze of God (Psalm 139; Hebrews 4:11-13)

2. The gospel of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16; John 5:39-47)

3. The family of God – the church

Conclusion (Romans 8:1, 31-34)

We fear being exposed by humans because we have forgotten that we are already completely exposed before God, that He still chose to set His love upon us, accept us in Christ, and dress us in perfect righteousness. Knowing what God thinks, who cares what people think?

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
- John Murray, The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness
- Kevin DeYoung, Just Do Something
- Tony Payne & Philip Jensen, Guidance and the Voice of God
- James Petty, Step By Step

Class Outline:

- 1. What is the fear of man?
- 2. What is the fear of God?
- 3. How do we fear man? We fear that people will expose us.
- 4. How do we fear man? We fear that people will reject us.
- 5. How do we fear man? We fear that people will harm us.
- 6. A new vision for life: loving God and loving neighbor
- 7. Anxious or Restful?
- 8. God's Providence
- 9. God's Will
- 10. Faithfulness
- 11. Tools of the Trade Part 1: God's Word, Prayer, Counsel
- 12. Tools of the Trade Part 2: Circumstances and Feelings
- 13. Panel Discussion—Fearing and Following the Lord