



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

## Class 6 – A New Paradigm: Loving and Serving instead of Fearing and Needing.

### 1. A reorientation toward God: perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:7-5:3).

Notice what we learn about God's love:

1. God is love (7, 8, 16).
2. God loved us first (9, 10, 11, 19).
3. God showed His love by sending His Son to be our Savior (9, 10, 14, 5:1).
4. God's perfect love casts out fear (17-18).
5. The first response to God's love is to love Him in return (16, 19, 5:1-2).
6. The second response to God's love is to love others.

## 2. Reorientation to other people: loving and serving, not fearing and needing.

Notice the ways 1 John 4:7-5:3 shows the importance of loving others in response to God's love for us:

1. God's love motivates us to love others (7, 11, 19).
2. God's love fully equips us to show His love to others (12-16).
3. God's love commands us to love others (4:20-5:3).

## Whom do we need to love and serve?

God (Matthew 22:37-38)

Enemies (Luke 6:27-33)

Unbelievers

Neighbors (Matthew 22:39)

Our physical families

Brothers and Sisters (Galatians 6:10)

What shape does this loving and serving take?

**Developing a true servant's heart—How do we carry out a heart of love? What does it look like to love instead of fear and need?**

1. *Consider your motivation even when it comes to loving and serving others.*
2. *Look to Jesus.*
3. *Pray regularly for other people.*
4. *Think about how you can minister to others in specific ways.*

**Results of loving and serving rather than fearing and needing**

Unity

*Genuine respect and appreciation of others*

*Peace, joy, longsuffering, gentleness—the fruit of the Spirit*

## **Conclusion**

When you are gripped by fear of man, look up to the Lord and remember his power and love. His perfect love casts out your fear. In His love you are accepted, protected, and justified. By His love you are equipped to love Him and others. So look out for opportunities to bring Him glory by loving others the way He loved us.

## 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