

ANSWERS: Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 12 Fear the Lord

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 12: Fear the Lord (Day One) Understanding Sin

Read Philippians 3:12-21 and answer questions 1- 6:

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.¹⁵ All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:12-21

1. What does the apostle Paul say about *his* state of perfection (vs. 12-13)?

He has not been made perfect nor has he reached the goal or state to which Jesus desires for Him.

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect (v. 12).
Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it (v. 13).*

2. What is Paul’s plan of action since he has not yet been made perfect (vs. 12-14)?

He is going to press on, forgetting the past, and strain forward toward the goal that awaits him in heaven. Basically, Paul is going to push forward, forgetting his past and forgiven sins and keep trying to live up to the holiness and perfection of Christ Jesus because this is how God has called him (and us) to live.

*I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me (v. 12)
Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead (v.13).
I press on toward the goal to win the prize (v.14).*

Definition: A mature Christian is one who has and reveals qualities gained by development and experience in Christ Jesus. He or she has mental, emotional and even physical characteristics associated with the Spirit's guidance and leadership. (See 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 for a description of immature Christians)

3. Does Paul consider himself a mature Christian (v. 15)? **Yes** No (Circle One)

All of us who are mature should take such a view of things (v. 15).

4. Would you consider yourself a mature Christian? Why or why not?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, please comment appropriately but do not contradict or argue with his or her answer.

5. How does Paul describe those who *live as enemies of the cross of Christ* (vs. 18-19)?

Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

6. Who is watching our progress, empowering us and will ultimately transform our lowly bodies into glorious ones (vs. 20-21)?

Jesus Christ

Definitions: Test is defined as taking measures to check the quality, performance, or reliability of (something), especially before putting it into widespread use or practice. God tests for faith and loyalty. Temptation is defined as something that causes a strong urge or desire to have or do something and especially something that is bad, wrong, or unwise. Satan tempts or entices people to sin.

Read Numbers 5:5-8 and answer questions 7-9:

The LORD said to Moses,⁶ "Say to the Israelites: 'When a man or woman wrongs another in any way and so is unfaithful to the LORD, that person is guilty⁷ and must confess the sin he has committed. He must make full restitution for his wrong, add one fifth to it and give it all to the person he has wronged.⁸ But if that person has no close relative to whom restitution can be made for the wrong, the restitution belongs to the LORD and must be given to the priest, along with the ram with which atonement is made for him. Numbers 5:5-8

7. When we wrong another person in any way, how does God view those actions (v. 6a)?

It is an act of unfaithfulness to God and that person is guilty.

8. What are some ways that we might not act rightly toward another person?

Personal Answer – but lying, stealing, cheating, physically harming, mentally harming, selfishness or withholding good when it is in your power to help, etc.

9. What is the remedy for unfaithfulness (disloyalty, untrustworthiness) to the LORD in the Old Testament and the New Testament (v. 7-8)? (Read 1 John 1:8-9 and Luke 19:8)

The Old Testament and the New Testament both call for confession and restitution.

For example, if we stole goods or money from another person, we should return all the items and repay the money.

Definition: Restitution is the restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner; recompense for injury or loss.

Luke 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Read Proverbs 28:13-14 and answer questions 10-12:

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.¹⁴ Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble. Proverbs 28:13-14 (Renounce - formally give up.)

10. What is one surefire (guaranteed) way **not** to prosper (v.13)?

Concealing or trying to hide our sins; trying to justify our sins would also be included.

11. How are you assured of finding mercy (v.13)?

Confessing sins and renouncing them.

12. ___ **Blessed** ___ is the man who always ___ **fears** ___ the LORD, but he who ___ **hardens** ___ his heart falls into ___ **trouble** ___ (v. 14).

Lesson 12: Fear the Lord (Day Two) Fearing Man

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2-3a (This prophecy is about the Messiah, Jesus)

13. Read Isaiah 11:2-3a and fill in the blanks. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the ____ **fear** ____ of the LORD--³ and he will delight in the ____ **fear** ____ of the LORD.

Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and answer questions 14-15:

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

14. What are two things all men and women are responsible for (v. 13)?

Fear God and keep his commandments.

15. Why should we take care to fear God and keep His commandments (v. 14)?

Because God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

When Peter came to Antioch, I (Paul) opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.¹² Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. Galatians 2:11-12 (Parenthesis for clarification)

Read Galatians 2:11-12 and answer questions 16-21:

16. Why did Peter stop eating and having fellowship with Gentile believers (v. 12b)?

Because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. (fear of man)

17. Why do you think Peter was afraid of those belonging to the circumcision group?

Personal Answer but most likely afraid of their opinions and being accepted by them. Seems they had some power, perhaps higher learning in Scripture and standing in the Christian community.

18. Did Paul fear man in this particular circumstance (v. 11)? Yes **No** (Circle One)

19. Explain how Paul and Peter's involvement encourages you in this situation:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled, comment as warranted to show your interest in your student.

20. Think about your own life. Who or what group do you fear and why?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, encourage and pray for your student.

21. From your answer in 20, what will you do about this particular fear?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, encourage in the Lord and pray for your student.

Definition: A snare is a trap for catching birds or animals. It is usually made with nooses or nets and hidden under leaves and brush.

Read Proverbs 29:25 and answer questions 22-23:

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.
Proverbs 29:25

22. Why do you think the fear of humans can be a snare or trap?

Personal Answer. However, it is a trap because we do not recognize that fearing humans elevates them to God in our lives. Thus without knowing it, we start trying to please others rather than God.

23. How can we be protected from the snare of fearing others (v. 25b)?

Trust in God or in the LORD.

24. Have you ever heard these kind of false words ringing in your ears? Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer.

25. What will you do to overcome the fear of appearing foolish?

Personal Answer. But need to trust in God's love and purpose for one's life whether we look foolish to others or not.

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

26. Read Galatians 1:10. Whose approval should we try to win?

God's approval.

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
Luke 14:11 (Exalt means to hold oneself in praise or high regard.)

27. What does Jesus tell us in Luke 14:11 about prideful people who exalt themselves?

They will be humbled.

Luke 14:13-14 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29

Definition: Yoke is a bar or frame that is attached to the heads or necks of two work animals (such as oxen) so that they can pull a plow or heavy load. Jesus is using the word yoke as a figure of speech meaning to rely on Him as Savior and Lord.

28. Read Matthew 11:29. How do we learn gentleness, humility and find rest for our souls?

By relying on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Or by yoking ourselves to Christ.

29. Prayerfully consider the various aspects of fear of humans and confess it as sin. Pray and ask God to help you to destroy the fear of man and replace it with the fear of Him in Christ Jesus. I have confessed any fear of people as sin and prayed for help: Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled, it would be a rare individual who does not have some fear of man in their hearts. So if your student says no, perhaps a comment to the effect that if they do find themselves fearing others and their opinions, they can go to the Lord as suggested.

Meditate on the following verses for help in overcoming the fear of man:

Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever."⁵ In my anguish I cried to the LORD, and he answered by setting me free.⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies.⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. Psalm 118:4-8

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. 2 Timothy 1:7-9a

30. After meditating on the above verses, please share how God encouraged you:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled, comment as appropriate.

Lesson 12: Fear the Lord (Day Three) *The Heart Condition*

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.¹⁴ Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble. Proverbs 28:13-14 (Also reference Hebrews 10:26-39)

A soft heart indicates openness to God and eagerness to respond to His will. A hard heart is not open to God and not eager to do His will.

but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out,⁵⁰ because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed,⁵² for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. Mark 6:49-52

Read Mark 6:49-52 and answer questions 31-35:

31. Write the reason that the apostles were completely amazed (v. 52)?

For they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

32. What did the disciples not understand about the loaves (See Mark 6:38-44)?

They did not understand the enormity of the miracle Jesus did of feeding five thousand with only five loaves and how this pointed to His divinity. Thus, they would not have been amazed that the Son of God could walk on water.

Further Notes: Jesus miraculously provided by increasing the five loaves and two fish into enough to feed five thousand men (plus women and children - Matthew 14:21). The disciples were focused on material things and not on spiritual things. If they had been thinking spiritually they might have recognized the following:

"God promised that when the true Shepherd came the desert would become rich pasture where the sheep would be gathered and fed (Ezekiel 34:23-31), and here the Messiah feasts with followers in the desert (Isaiah 25:6-9). Jesus is the Shepherd who provides for all our needs so that we lack nothing (Psalm 23:1)." From NIV Study Note (Mark 6:42)

Mark 6:38-44 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five-- and two fish."³⁹ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.⁴² They all ate and were satisfied,⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

33. In what way do you think that the disciple's hearts were hardened?

They were focused on material things and not on spiritual things. May be other acceptable answers.

34. Is there any area of your heart that is hardened toward God? Yes No (Circle One)
If yes, what will you do about it?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, please encourage your student.

35. Does the fact that the apostles, Jesus' closest companions, had hard hearts at times encourage or discourage you? Yes No (Circle One) Why or why not?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, please encourage your student.

36. List the date or approximate time when you trusted Jesus as your personal Savior. Look back on your life from that time and list some of the ways that you have changed.

Personal Answer.

37. Do the changes encourage or discourage you? Why or why not?

Personal Answer.

38. What kind of changes or transformation in your character or lifestyle do you desire? Why?

Personal Answer.

Definition: Co-dependency is a psychological (mental, emotional) condition or relationship in which a person is controlled or manipulated by another who is affected with a condition (as an addiction to alcohol or heroin); *broadly*: dependence on the needs of or control by another.

Definition: Addiction "is a condition in which the body must have a drug to avoid physical and psychological withdrawal symptoms. Addiction's first stage is dependence, during which the search for a drug dominates an individual's life. An addict eventually develops tolerance, which forces the person to consume larger and larger doses of the drug to get the same effect."¹

39. What does your addiction or your "little" bad habit say of your relationship with Jesus?

Personal Answer. When we prefer our sinful ways, no matter how small or insignificant they may seem, we are saying that we love that habit or ourselves more than Jesus.

Read Romans 6:18-19 and answer questions 40-42:

¹ American Physiological Association website: <http://www.apa.org/topics/addiction/index.aspx>

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.¹⁹ I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. Romans 6:18-19

40. What does the apostle Paul tell Christians they have been set free from (v. 18a)?

Set free from sin.

41. What are Christians now slaves to (v. 18b)?

Slaves to righteousness.

42. How should you offer the parts of your body (v. 19c)?

Offer the parts of our body in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs." They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered. 2 Kings 20:7 (Poultice is a substance spread on a cloth and then applied to the skin.)

43. Read 2 Kings 20:7. What was the process for Hezekiah to be healed?

Prepare a poultice of fig and apply it to the boil.

Read 2 Kings 20:2-5 and answer questions 43-45:

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,³ "Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.⁴ Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him:⁵ "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. 2 Kings 20:2-5

43. What does Hezekiah ask God to remember (v. 3)?

To remember how he walked faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and did what was good in God's eyes.

44. When we pray for God to act through the promises of the New Covenant, what do we ask God to remember?

That we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior and follow Him.

45. Why did God decide to heal Hezekiah (v. 5) ?

Hezekiah had trusted God and followed Him. God heard his prayer and saw his sincerity.

Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go." Exodus 5:2

Read Exodus 5:2 and answer questions 46- 49:

46. When Moses and Aaron first appeared before Pharaoh about releasing the Israelites, what was Pharaoh's response?

I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.

47. Why did Pharaoh not have a good excuse for recognizing the LORD and obeying His command delivered by Moses and Aaron (Romans 1:18-32)?

Pharaoh did not have a good excuse because the Bible (Romans 1:18-32) tells us that God has made it plain to mankind that He exists. God has made His invisible qualities known through the world that He created. The order, the beauty, the intricacies and massiveness of the universe speak of a Creator larger and more magnificent than the idols and gods the Egyptians invented.

***Romans 1:19-20** since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

48. What was the condition of Pharaoh's heart?

Hard

49. Do you think God would have been glorified if Pharaoh had listened and immediately released a million or more slaves from his work force? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)
Why or Why not?

Personal Answer. But, either way God would have been glorified. Imagine the amazement of all the people if Pharaoh had released his slave workforce with a word from God's prophet, Moses.

50. List the addiction or behavior in your character that you would like changed:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled, as always, pray and encourage your student through all of the following personal answers.

51. How were you able to recognize this particular sin problem? Or what would have to happen for you to see the danger in your behavior?

Personal Answer.

52. Have you ever tried to work on this addiction or behavior in the past? What happened?

Personal Answer.

53. What are the risks to you, your relationship with God, or other people, if this problem or behavior continues?

Personal Answer.

Lesson 12: Fear the Lord (Day Four) *Action Required*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

54. Read Proverbs 9:10. How do you become wise?

By fearing the LORD.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10 (precept - law, instruction, rule)

55. Read Psalm 111:10. What is the action required in fearing the LORD properly?

To learn and follow God's precepts or instruction; obedience.

Definition: Fear of the Lord is defined as a mix of reverence, dread and wonder. It is fearful veneration or respect. Its archaic (ancient, old) use meant it was the power to inspire reverence or fear. Fearing the Lord also means being afraid of offending God. Fear of God originates in love. We care for the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit so much that we want to serve Him and we experience true anxiety in failing Him.

Lesson 12: Fear the Lord (Day Five) *Fearing the Lord Today*

And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,¹³ and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? Deuteronomy 10:12-13

56. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13. Speaking for God, Moses asks Israel to fear the LORD and gives a four part definition of how this is to be done. List the 4 ways of fearing the LORD:

(1. **Walk in His ways (live life in a way that God desires; what would Jesus do?)**)

(2. **Love Him** (3. **Serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul**)

(4. **Observe His commands and decrees**)

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. Acts 9:31

57. According to Acts 9:31, how did the early church or Christians live?

In the fear of the Lord.

Read Isaiah 11:1-3 and answer questions 59-60:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1-3a

58. Who is our model and the real Person this passage is describing?

Jesus Christ

59. What are some ways that *you* can follow in Jesus' steps in living and delighting in the fear of the LORD?

Personal Answer. We are looking for specific answers to a student's life, but general suggestions would be welcoming the Holy Spirit's guidance, prayer, learning Scripture, obeying God, sharing the gospel, giving to the poor, helping widows, prisoners etc.

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man;¹¹ the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Psalm 147:10

60. Read Psalm 147:10. Who does the LORD delight in?

The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. Psalm 86:11

61. Read Psalm 86:11. Can God teach and enable you to fear Him? **Yes** No (Circle One)

62. I pray for God to teach and enable me to have an undivided heart that fears His name.
Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled, if your student answers no, try to find out why he or she would not pray.

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues.
Psalm 31:19-20 (Read and meditate on Genesis 22:12; Psalm 33:18-22, 103:11-13, 17, 112:1.)

63. Read Psalm 31:19-20 and the additional scripture verses listed. List three blessings received for fearing God properly?

(1. God's goodness stored up (2. Hidden in the shelter of God's presence from intrigues of men (3. Kept safe from accusing tongues (4. The LORD's eyes are on those who fear Him to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine (5. God's helps us and is our shield (6. Hearts rejoice (7. God's great love for us (8. Transgressions removed (9. God has compassion (10. God's righteousness with children's children (11. Blessed.

Genesis 22:12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Psalm 33:18-22 But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,¹⁹ to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.²¹ In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.²² May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Psalm 103:11-13 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

Psalm 103:17 But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children--

Psalm 112:1 Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.

Read 1 John 4:16-21 and answer questions 65-66:

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.¹⁷ In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:16-21

64. Why will we have confidence on the day of judgment with no fear of punishment (v. 17)?

We trust God's Word, which says that Christ took the punishment for our sins into His body and we will not suffer punishment when we die. Therefore we are not afraid and have no fear of punishment on the day of judgment.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. John 3:16 -18

Does not mean that we will not be disciplined, punished or have dire consequences on earth if we knowingly sin (Hebrews 12:6).

Hebrews 12:5-6 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Other references: John 5:24; Romans 8:1, 15 and 2 Timothy 1:7.

65. Now that you have studied the "fear of God", what do you think this passage is talking about when the apostle John says that *the one who fears is not made perfect in love* (v. 18)?

Personal Answer. However, this passage is not negating the whole of Scripture that says we should fear God. This passage is talking about fearing punishment at the Judgment Seat and fearing God in the wrong way. We trust God and His Word and therefore know that He loves us and will take care of us and provide for us, including eternal life. We do not have to be afraid of people, circumstances or death.

---End Lesson 12---

Next: Lesson 13: The Holy Spirit

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