

**The Problem of The Fear of Man
in Teenagers with Parents in Full Time Ministry**

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Abstract

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This project is focused on the importance of counseling teenagers that have parents in full-time ministry. It specifically addresses the issue of fear of man that teenagers in this position can encounter. Pressure to appear perfect or ideal according to the standards of others is one of the most common struggles that these teenagers face. However, these struggles are often intensified by the fear of man. Dealing with the fear of man is a root problem in the heart that must be addressed.

The incorrect view of fear is the fear of man. The correct and biblical fear to have is the fear of God. I would like to address the difference and its importance. This project will first address common struggles that these teenagers face and the result of these struggles. Secondly, this project will focus on defining the fear of man and the fear of God, and why these truths are important in the Christian life especially in this particular season of life. Furthermore, this project will address how to counsel these teenagers and replace sinful fear with biblical fear. My hope is that it would be a helpful resource and encouragement to teenagers in this special ministry position. Facing some of these struggles myself as a pastor's kid and missionary kid growing up, I can identify with many of these struggles. My prayer is that the Lord would use this project to point them towards Christlikeness so that they can make a great impact in their family and church for the glory of God.

For this project, I would like to define "parents in full-time ministry" as those who are in the pastorate or are missionaries. Although there are many opportunities of full-time ministry within the Bible-believing community, I have chosen these specific ministry fields because they are the most common and perhaps the most influential within the church of Christ.

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I. Introduction

a. Purpose Statement

- i. The objective of this thesis is to provide clarity on the struggle with fear of man in teenagers who have parents in full time ministry, offer counsel on how to overcome it, replace it with a fear of God, and give biblical encouragement in light of their position in ministry.
- ii. The position that these specific teenagers have in ministry provides a great opportunity to serve the body of Christ through their local church. However, many times, these teenagers feel overwhelmed by the expectations of others and in turn feel pressured to conform to those expectations. Through this pressure that is intensified by living in the limelight of their church or ministry, fear of man can develop. Living with the fear of man can then lead to devastating results within the church but most importantly within the heart of the teenager.
- iii. When these teenagers have a heart that is obedient to the fear of man, they are more tempted to hide their sin rather than deal with it in a biblical manner. They are tempted to evade exposure of their sin to avoid marring the testimony of their parents or to avoid looking bad in front of others. There are other times that unresolved sin can lead to rebellion in the heart and is exposed through actions and reactions to various circumstances. The reality is that the hearts of these teenagers play a vital role in the body of Christ but many times they are left without helpful encouragement or faithful support to point them towards a biblical view of themselves and others.

b. Intended Audience and Scope

- i. The intended audience is the teenager who has parents in full time ministry. Although this study can be beneficial for others within the body of Christ including parents, my desire is to focus on the struggles and needs of these teenagers.
 1. It will address the struggles that these teenagers face in this specific ministry.
 2. It will address the problem with fear of man and explain its effects in the heart and ministry.
 3. It will address the importance of a fear of God and the blessings that come along with it.
 4. It will give practical help on how to fight against the fear of man and live a life of faith and obedience for the glory of God.
 5. It will encourage them to have a biblical view of self, ministry, and family.
 - ii. This research intends to help the teenager in this specific area of ministry know that they are not alone in the struggles that they may face but also address biblically their response to these struggles as they arise. The position that they have in the ministry that the Lord has given their parents is unique and valuable and they have been given the privilege by God to be a part of it. However, the goal of this study is to address their heart response to the ministry that the Lord has given no matter what external circumstances are taking place. Fear of man may be a temptation and struggle, but it must be replaced with biblical fear, a reverential fear of God.
- j. Types of Fear Defined
- ii. Fear of man

1. Fearing man does not only include being afraid of someone, but it extends to holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshipping others, putting your trust in people, or needing people.¹

iii. Fear of God

2. The fear of the Lord is a state of mind in which one's own will, attitudes, feelings, deeds, and goals are exchanged for God's.²

d. Research Methodology

- i. Most of the research will be done through library resources and internet research. However, a survey will be conducted as well.

I. Life In the Spotlight³

a. The Common Struggles

- i. Expectations placed by parents and others.⁴
 1. They are expected to behave like a Christian⁵
 - a. They should not or cannot give in to sinful ways and it most definitely should not be visible. There is not a lot of room for error.

¹ Edward Welch, *When People are Big and God is Small*, (Greensboro: P & R Publishing, 2011).

² The MacArthur Study Bible, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010), 866.

³ Several of the points under this section I received from a survey I conducted for pastors' kids and/or missionary kids that are currently in this position or were in this position when they were teenagers. Results are in Appendix A.

⁴ "Prodigal Pastor Kids: Fact or Fiction," Barna, last modified November 11, 2013, accessed April 8, 2022, <https://www.barna.com/research/prodigal-pastor-kids-fact-or-fiction/>.

⁵ Piper, Barnabas. *The Pastor's Kid: What it's Like and How to Help*, (Charlotte: The Good Book Company, 2020), 55-56.

b. They are to always obey their parents, always be respectful to others, and always obey Scripture.

c. They should always be involved in church ministries and activities.

Where there is a need, they should help filling it with a good attitude.

2. They are expected to look like a Christian⁶

a. They should not make a scene with what they wear or with what they do.

Appearance is important to make sure no questions or assumptions are made of struggling or wandering.⁷

b. They need to be careful with how they present themselves outside of the home and church setting (e.g. social media, school).

c. Not being on guard with their actions and reactions can make their parents look bad.⁸

3. They are expected to talk like a Christian⁹

a. They should know the Bible and know it well to respond correctly to questions that are fundamental to the Christian faith.

b. They should be ready to explain the gospel and know essential theological doctrines.

c. They should be careful with expressing their thoughts and opinions especially if they do not align with their parents' views.

⁶ Piper, Barnabas, *The Pastor's Kid: What it's Like and How to Help*, 56.

⁷ Appendix A.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Piper, *The Pastor's Kid*, 46-48.

- ii. Assumptions made by others.¹⁰
 - 1. Assuming that they know a lot about the Bible because their dad is the pastor who is theologically trained and trains them in every area as well.
 - 2. Assuming that they agree with everything their parents teach and believe and are a true believer of Jesus Christ because their parents are true believers of Jesus Christ.¹¹
 - 3. Assuming they do not struggle with sin or other challenges other teenagers may struggle with.¹²
 - 4. Assuming their family is faithfully living out what their parents teach.¹³
 - 5. Assuming they love ministry like their parents.
- b. The Impact the Struggles Make¹⁴
 - i. Loneliness
 - a. They many times do not have anyone outside of their family to confide in about life, sin, and struggles they face.
 - b. They do not have many true friends or others to be open with and relate to that are in their same position.
 - ii. Pride

¹⁰ Piper, Barnabas. *The Pastor's Kid: What it's Like and How to Help*, 32-39.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 64-65.

¹² Appendix A.

¹³ "Prodigal Pastor Kids: Fact or Fiction," Barna, <https://www.barna.com/research/prodigal-pastor-kids-fact-or-fiction/>, last modified November 11, 2013, accessed April 8, 2022.

¹⁴ Appendix A.

- a. There is a temptation to impress and keep a good appearance. They can strive to be an ideal example of a good teenager by knowing a lot of Scripture, answering questions correctly, and meeting any ministry needs.¹⁵
 - b. A legalistic mindset can be formed due to focusing only on the rules and standards of the Bible and not on the purpose behind those rules and standards.
- iii. Confusion¹⁶
- a. Common questions they may ask themselves are: What does it look like to have a genuine relationship with God? Am I truly saved, or do I think I am saved because of my parent's position in ministry?
- iv. Fear¹⁷
- a. They may fear being exposed. Common questions that they may ask themselves are: What will people and my parents say and think if they knew what I struggled with or what sins overwhelm me?
 - b. They may fear sharing views and opinions because they may be wrong or different to what their parents or church believes.
 - c. They may fear failing and discouraging their parents or doing something bad that will disqualify them from ministry.
 - d. They may fear "not fitting in" with peers.

¹⁵ Piper, Barnabas. *The Pastor's Kid: What it's Like and How to Help*, 57-63.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 55-56.

¹⁷ Appendix A.

- e. They may fear asking questions about the Bible or about God since they should already know the answers.
- c. The Problem
- i. Many times, these teenagers develop external lifestyles that do not correspond to the true condition of their hearts. Barnabas Piper, son of John Piper, shares that, "...PKs learn tricks of their 'trade.' These are the subtle often instinctive, and maybe even accidental methods and skills that allow PKs to survive and present the desired persona, to 'be' whatever is expected or necessary."¹⁸
 - ii. Not addressing the struggles and temptations that they face can contribute to a false view of self, others, and God.
 - iii. Because external circumstances cannot be controlled (e.g., comments or general responses of others) they must focus on what they can control.
 - iv. Their heart: the attitude and posture of the heart is what they can control and work on to have a biblical view of self, others, and God.
 - a. Addressing their heart will help them view their current position in a manner that honors God, brings peace, and faithfully serves and loves others.
- d. The Root of the Problem
- 1. The root of the problem in the heart is the fear of man: The fear of man lies in the heart and captivates it (Prov. 29:25) which in turn "dictates" how one responds to their circumstances (Matt 15:17-19).
 - 2. This specific fear focuses the heart's attention on others that are not God which in turn distorts their view of God, self, and others.

¹⁸ Piper, Barnabas. *The Pastor's Kid: What it's Like and How to Help*, 57.

II. Dangers Of the Fear of Man

a. Dissecting the Fear of Man

- i. To address the fear of man, the teenager must first understand where it abides.

Knowing where it resides will help them know where to start addressing this problem.

- a. Fear of man abides in the heart. In the Bible, the heart is referred to as the “mind” which is the center of thinking and reason (Prov. 3:3), but also includes the emotions (Prov. 15:15), the will (Prov. 11:20) and the whole inner being (Prov 3:5).¹⁹
- b. All thoughts, attitudes, and ultimately behaviors reflect what is in the heart (Prov 27:19).
- c. When Jesus talked about sin, He always focused on the heart because that is ultimately where sin originates (Matt 15:18-20).
- d. Overall, the heart reveals what or to whom one is devoted, and ultimately who they worship (Matt 6:21). Because it is the center of worship, it is critical to assure that it has the correct focus. Not having the right focus, will bring detrimental effects to their spiritual, emotional, and even physical life.

b. Defining the Fear of Man

- i. Ed Welch, in summary, states that, “the fear of man is when we replace God with people. Instead of a biblically guided fear of the Lord, we fear others.”²⁰
- ii. It is also essential to remember that the fear of man is not just, “...holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshipping others, putting your trust in

¹⁹ The MacArthur Study Bible, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010), 871.

²⁰ Welch, *When People are Big, and God is Small*, 14.

people, or needing people,”²¹ but it can also be described as having a higher view of others than of God. What others think and say about them matters so much to the point that they are willing to look, act, and speak in such a way to please them.

iii. Fearing man is sin because²²:

- i. It demonstrates a lack of trust in God (Is 41:10; 2 Tim 1:7)
- ii. It attributes more power to another than what the Bible allows (Lk 12:4-5)
- iii. It disobeys God’s command to “not fear” (Matt 10:28; Ps 27:1-3; Prov 29:25)
- iv. It focuses on self rather than on God and others (1 Cor 13:5)

c. Examining the Effects of the Fear of Man

- i. Fear of man is produced when a person places their heart’s focus and hope on another that is not God. For this reason, the fear of man affects different areas of a person’s life.

a. Spiritual Effects:

- i. The heart of man was designed to worship God and when it is not worshipping God, it is worshipping other things or people. This is called idolatry (Rom 1:21-23). Tim Keller states that, “idolatry is not just a failure to obey God, it is a setting of the whole heart on something besides God.”²³

²¹ Welch, *When People are Big, and God is Small*, 14.

²² Priolo, Lou, *Fear: Breaking Its Grip*, (Phillipsburg, P & R Publishing, 2009), 6-15.

²³ Keller, Timothy, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*, (New York: Dutton, 2009), 171.

- ii. Our hearts are naturally inclined to this response due to our sinful nature. John Calvin correctly expressed this by saying that our hearts are idol factories.²⁴
 - iii. When a true worship for God decreases, the door is open to temptations and false ideologies of ourselves and of God (Prov 29:25).
- b. Emotional Effects:
- i. Our hearts inform our minds which affects the way that we respond emotionally.
 - ii. When an expectation of another is not met, the fear that resides in the heart provides the temptation for emotion driven decisions rather than making decisions that are based on truth.
 - iii. Responding to circumstances by emotions as the driving force will cause poor and unbiblical decisions to be made.
- c. Physical Effects:
- i. Not addressing the fear of man at the heart level can lead to physical consequences. Headaches, nausea, shortness of breath, shakiness, or stomach pain are examples of one that is given into anxiety.²⁵
 - ii. In summary, the fear of man affects every area of life and left unresolved can lead to greater consequences. English Puritan minister,

²⁴ Rienke, Tony, "The Nail in the Coffin of Our Hearts", last modified October 1, 2017, Accessed April 23, 2022, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-nail-in-the-coffin-of-our-hearts>.

²⁵ Harvard Health Publishing, "Recognizing and Easing the Physical Symptoms of Anxiety", last modified August 1, 2020, accessed April 12, 2020, <https://www.health.harvard.edu/mind-and-mood/recognizing-and-easing-the-physical-symptoms-of-anxiety>.

John Flavel wrote that, “much fear creates great tumult in the soul. It puts everything into hurries and distractions to such an extent that we cannot perform any service for God with profit or comfort.”²⁶

d. The Problems with the Fear of Man

- i. The fear of man does not please God and is therefore sinful. Welch shares that, “ALL experiences of the fear of man share at least one common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us. Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. Therefore, the first task in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to know that God is awesome and glorious, not other people.”²⁷
- ii. Whom a person fears sets the stage for whom they worship. Whom they worship sets the manner for how they live. If the teenager’s life is defined by worshipping others and not God, then their life will be devoted to bowing down to the desires of others and not God’s. Addressing the fear of man will bring honor to God and will result in a true worship of God. This change of heart will permeate all other areas of life that will help the teenager have the right attitude and perspective of others.
- iii. It is vital for the teenager to understand that the habits they build now will affect their future. No matter how hidden their intentions may be, they will always be revealed. If not now, they will be in the future judgment (Eccl. 11:9; 12:13-14; Jn 5:28-29).

IV. The Solution: The Fear of God

²⁶ Flavel, John and edited by J. Stephen Yuille, *Triumphing over Sinful Fear*, (Grand Rapids, Reformation Heritage Books, 2011), 47.

²⁷ Welch, *When People are Big and God is Small*, 95.

a. The Fear of God Defined

- i. Puritan, John Flavel, describes the fear of God as, “a gracious habit or principle planted by God in the soul, whereby the soul is kept under a holy awe of the eye of God, and from thence is inclined to perform and do what pleases him and to shun and avoid whatever he forbids and hates.”²⁸
- ii. In essence, to fear God is to have a reverential awe of Him from the heart which is revealed by the desires and actions of the heart: to love what God loves and to hate what God hates.
- iii. Michael Reeves also shares that the person who fears God, “*loves* God, cherishing Him as a holy Father, and therefore has a sincere longing to be like Him.”²⁹
- iv. The Bible describes the fear of God as:
 - a. The beginning of knowledge and wisdom: Prov 1:7, 9:10; Job 28:28
 - b. Hatred of evil: Prov 8:13
- v. The fear of God is a command (1 Pet 2:17; Prov 3:7; Deut 10:12; Eccles 12:13) but ultimately is a choice of the heart (Ps 86:11; Ps 56:3; Ps 56:3-4; Josh 24:14).

b. Who can Fear God

- i. To fear God, one must first know God; a person must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (Jn 17:3). Without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, it is impossible to fear God. A temptation that the teenager faces in this position is thinking that they are saved because of their parent’s position in ministry or

²⁸ Flavel, John, *Triumphing over Sinful Fear*, xiii.

²⁹ Reeves, Michael, *Rejoice and Tremble: The Surprising Good News of the Fear of the Lord*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2021).

because they have heard the gospel message their whole lives. Barnabas Piper, son of John Piper, also shares that, “a PK can often describe faith without having it, argue theology without believing it, and quote Scripture without thinking about it.”³⁰ Exposure to the gospel truths and solid teachings, continual serving in the church community, and having Bible knowledge does not confirm that they are saved. Therefore, a correct understand of the gospel and what it means to be saved is essential for these teenagers to understand. Without a true relationship with Jesus Christ, the fear of man will dominate the unregenerate heart.

- ii. It is vital to help the teenager understand this truth so that they do not have a false view of Christianity. A few helpful questions to ask a teenager that is in this position are: What does it mean to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? What fruit do you see in your heart and in your life that matches your confession? Assuming that they are believers because they know much of the Bible is a dangerous assumption since many times they can struggle with confusion or doubt regarding salvation.³¹
- iii. In summary, if God is not present in their heart and life, a fear of God cannot exist. This is the first necessary step to address the problem of the fear of man. If the teenager has a true relationship with Jesus Christ, they are in the correct position to fight against the fear of man biblically and experience victory for the glory of God.

³⁰ Piper, Barnabas, “5 Reasons Why Pastor’s Kids Struggle with Doubt”, <https://research.lifeway.com/2020/01/21/5-reasons-pastors-kids-struggle-with-doubt/>, Last accessed April 15, 2022. Last modified January 21, 2020.

³¹ Piper, Barnabas, *The Pastor’s Kid*, 58-59.

c. Benefits of the One Who Fears God

- i. The Bible teaches that the fear of God brings blessings (Ps 31:19, 111:10, 112:1) that affect every area of life. It specifically teaches that:
 - a. The Lord fulfills the desire of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them (Ps 145:19).
 - b. God takes pleasure in those who fear Him (Ps 147:10-11).
 - c. The Lord shows compassion on those who fear Him (Ps 103:13).
 - d. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life by which someone can avoid the traps of death (Prov 14:27).
 - e. The one who fears God has strong confidence (Prov 14:26), will not lack anything (Ps 34:9), and rests satisfied (Prov 19:23).
 - f. The one who fears God is a friend of God (Ps 25:14).
 - g. The one who practices the fear of God has good understanding (Ps 111:10).
 - h. Riches, honor, and life are rewards for those who are humble and fear the Lord (Prov 22:4).
 - i. There are consequences to those who choose not to fear God (Prov 28:14).
- ii. The heart of a person who fears God is prepared to worship Him. Pastor John MacArthur shares that, “worship is honor and adoration directed to God.”³² When the heart is bowed low towards God, it affects every area of life and becomes a lifestyle. This lifestyle is evident by a consuming desire to, “use every moment of [their lives] to devote [themselves] to doing good to all, sharing [their] blessings

³² MacArthur, John, *Worship: The Ultimate Priority*, (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2012), 43.

with [their] neighbors, and praising God, who is the source of all goodness and every blessing.”³³

- iii. Flavel gives a vivid picture of the transforming power that the fear of God has over the fear of man to the one who chooses it. He shares that, “The fear of God will swallow up the fear of man. A reverential awe and dread of God will extinguish the creature’s slavish fear, as the rain puts out the fire. To sanctify the Lord of hosts is to acknowledge the glory of His sovereign power, wisdom, and faithfulness. It includes not only a verbal confession but internal acts of trust, confidence, and entire dependance upon Him.”³⁴
- iv. Because of the varied temptations that teenagers face in this position, a true fear of God will embolden them to live out the Christian faith, using their position as an opportunity to glorify God, and be a blessing to others.

V. How to Fight Fear with Love

a. A Change of Heart and A Change of Mind

- i. First, a change of heart and mind is necessary to address the fear of man at its roots.
 - a. Jay Adams shares that a change that is directed towards godliness is one that 1) stems from an inward change of heart, 2) is achieved by the Holy Spirit, and 3) is therefore entirely acceptable to God.³⁵

³³ MacArthur, *Worship: The Ultimate Priority*, 46.

³⁴ Flavel, *Triumphing over Sinful Fear*, 5.

³⁵ Adams, Jay E., *How to Help People Change: The Four Step Biblical Process*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986), 8-9.

- b. The teenager that has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and understands that they have sinned against the Lord by having a greater fear of man than of God and confesses and repents from that sin has made the first step towards victory over the fear of man.
 - c. Once the teenager has established as the highest priority in their heart to please the Lord and fear Him alone, they will then be able to begin working on how to specifically address the fear of man.
- b. Choosing Love Over Fear
 - i. Second, the teenager must understand that the biblical solution to fear is love.
 - a. Perhaps love is not the answer that seems to be the most obvious solution, but the Bible teaches that perfect love casts out fear (1 Jn 4:18). The context in this passage speaks about fear of God's judgment. However, the general principle found in this passage: "there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear," (1 Jn 4:18a) has a broader application and does not just imply fear of judgment but fear in general.³⁶
 - b. Lou Priolo shares that, "there is nothing else in all the world—nothing in any man-made theory of counseling, nothing in any pill you can buy—that has the power to expel fear more effectively than biblical love."³⁷
 - c. Why love? When fear is at the center of the heart, the heart is focused on self rather than on God and others but when love replaces fear, God and others are in view and not self. When a person is more focused on their love for God, who He

³⁶ Priolo, Lou, *Fear: Breaking Its Grip*, 14-15.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 15.

is and what He has done for them, they will be able to serve Him without fear.

When a person focuses on loving their neighbor, they are more consumed with caring for them than fearing them. This in essence is the fulfillment of the great and first commandment as well as the second (Matt 22:36-40; Lk 10:25-28).

- ii. The teenager should remember that if they have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, they have been equipped with the essential resources to have victory over the fear of man.
 - a. The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit and God's true words found in the Scriptures will enable and provide strength for them to overcome the fear of man³⁸
- c. The Foundation and Beauty of True Love
 - i. Before working on this step towards loving others, it is vital for the teenager to understand why they can and should choose to love others, especially those they fear.
 - ii. The key to loving others comes in the verse following the one last observed which is 1 John 4:19: "We love because He first loved us." This amazing love is not from this earth. This magnificent love of God is seen in at least three ways and serve as an example to imitate.
 - A. God's love in choosing for salvation (Eph 1:4-6).
 - B. Christ's love in giving His life to die on our behalf (Rom 5:6-8; Jn 3:16).

Elyse Fitzpatrick shares that, "...Real love was profoundly and perfectly

³⁸ Stone, Derek, "Promises for Overcoming the Fear of Man," <https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/articles/promises-for-overcoming-the-fear-of-man/>, last accessed April 12, 2022, last updated May 20, 2021.

personified in Jesus Christ, the God-Man who assumed human flesh, lived a perfect life, was executed on a Roman cross, rose from the dead, and then ascended to heaven, still embodied in human flesh, to pave the way for each of us. Real love is personified in the gospel, and living in its light is utterly essential for our transformation.”³⁹

C. The Holy Spirit’s love in completing the work of salvation (Rom 5:5).

Dane Ortlund shares about this love by stating that, “He didn’t simply leave heaven for me; he endured hell for me. He, not deserving to be condemned, absorbed it in my place—I, who alone deserved it. That is his heart. And into our empty souls, like a glass of cold water to a thirsty mouth, God poured his Holy Spirit to internalize the actual experience of God’s love.”⁴⁰

iii. This trinitarian love reveals the entirety of God’s love for us. If all of God, all three Persons in One, loved us in this way, we can choose to love others because we have been truly loved (1 Jn 3:16; Jn 13:34-35). Fitzpatrick further shares that, “it’s essential for us to think about God’s love today because it is only his love that can grant us the *joy* that will strengthen our hearts, the *courage* that will embolden us in our fight against sin, and the *assurance* that will enable us to open up our lives to him so that he might deal powerfully with our unbelief and idolatry.”⁴¹

d. Practical Steps to Fight Against the Fear of Man with Love

³⁹ Fitzpatrick, Elyse M., *Because He Loves Me: How Christ Transforms Our Daily Life*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008), 23-24.

⁴⁰ Ortlund, Dane, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2020), 192.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 24.

- i. The teenager must learn to obey the first and second great commandments (Matt 22:36-40; Lk 10:25-28). Regarding this, Priolo shares that, “the most effective way to remove (put off) fear is to replace it with (put on) love...you must make it your primary goal to please (love) God, rather than to expel your fear. You must *obey God regardless* of your fear! You must *love others regardless* of your fear!”⁴²
- ii. They must train their thoughts to focus on what is most important. Priolo further shares that, “practically speaking, this means that in order to overcome fear you must also begin to change the way that you talk to yourself about your fears. You must learn to focus not on the consequences of the action that you are afraid to take, but rather on the pleasure that your obedience will bring to God and the ministry you will have to others.”⁴³
- iii. When they are tempted to give in to fear of another, they must use God’s word to address the specific fear. This means that specific passages have been chosen, meditated on, and memorized in order to rehearse in times of temptation. The teenager should be reminded that the, “impact of reading Scripture during times of distress is quite powerful. But the tranquilizing effect of memorizing and meditating on the appropriate portion of Scripture during those times is typically much more powerful.”⁴⁴

⁴² Priolo, Lou, *Fear: Breaking Its Grip*, 19.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 22-23.

- a. One simple way of practicing this is by writing out their fears and writing out God’s truth next to them to combat them in times of temptation. This can be done by dividing a sheet of paper in half and titling the left column, “I fear…” and list the things that they fear of another person. Then title the right column, “But God says…” and list specific passages and promises that address those specific fears. When they are tempted to fear in the specific ways they listed, they can use this sheet of paper to address them using God’s word more precisely. It is ideal to memorize those specific passages so that the teenager can address the fearful thoughts quickly.⁴⁵
- iv. They should clear their conscience from all unresolved conflicts with others—both God and man (Prov 28:1).⁴⁶ When the teenager addresses sin committed before God and others, they can focus on addressing the problem of fear within their heart.
- v. They should be encouraged to find specific ways they can show love to the person or people they fear. A great question to ask is, “what are ways that I can serve them and care for them?”
- a. The greatest example of faithful and loving service for another is Jesus Christ (Phil 2:3-8). They can imitate His example by choosing to love their neighbor and not be afraid of what they will think, say, or do. If love is the priority, they will be willing to be patient and kind and bear all things (1 Cor 13:4-8).
- vi. Helpful resources that address the fear of man:

⁴⁵ Priolo, Lou, *Fear: Breaking Its Grip*, 31-32.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 25.

- a. *When People are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man* by Edward T. Welch
- b. *Fear: Breaking Its Grip* by Lou Priolo
- c. *Rejoice & Tremble: The Surprising Good News of the Fear of the Lord* by Michael Reeves
- d. *Triumphing Over Sinful Fear* by John Flavel
- e. *When I Am Afraid: A Step-By-Step Guide Away from Fear and Anxiety* by Edward T. Welch

VI. Moving Forward in Faith

- a. The Impact of Fearing God in the Heart of the Teenager
 - i. Although the ministry calling was given to their parents and not them specifically, they should be encouraged with the reminder that in God's sovereignty He has them in the place that He desires with a purpose and a plan in mind. God's plans for each person are not just good and purposeful but they can also never be thwarted.⁴⁷ No matter where God has them or leads them in the future and no matter what people say or do, their good and God's glory is always in place (Rom 8:28-29). Ultimately it is for God's glory that they are where they are, and they can choose to honor Him with the time He has given to glorify Him and make Him known (Eccl 12:1,13-14, 11:9; Eph 5:15-16; Col 4:5-6).
 - ii. It is essential to remind the teenager that the position they are in is temporary but will have an impact for the rest of their lives. It is imperative to encourage the teenager to use this opportunity in their life to glorify God and serve others.

⁴⁷ Bridges, Jerry, *Trusting God*, (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2008), 37.

- iii. The exposure to God’s word and teaching of it in this position can be used by God in great ways. Rather than using it to just gain knowledge and make a godly appearance for all, they can cherish the opportunity to delight in God’s word and have it transform their hearts with every truth learned.
- iv. Loneliness, pride, confusion, and fear are very real impacts that are made in these teenagers because of the various things they may face inside and outside of their home. However, a faithful application of God’s truth and growing in the fear of the Lord will help their heart mature and grow in wisdom and Christlikeness. This does not mean that these struggles will completely disappear, but they will not have a controlling grip to their heart.
- v. Two historical examples of pastor’s kids who used their life for God’s glory were Jonathan Edwards and Susanna Wesley:
 - a. Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) grew up in a pastor’s home along with ten sisters. He did not come to a saving knowledge of Christ until the age of seventeen while completing his master’s degree at Yale. Edwards soon after graduating became an interim pastor at a small church and made it his aim to be in everything a “complete Christian”. He became one of the most well-known pastors and theologians of the eighteenth-century.⁴⁸
 - b. Susannah Wesley (1669-1742) was the daughter of a well-known pastor in England and was the youngest of twenty-five children. She was a wife and mother devoted to God’s word and prayer and faithfully taught the

⁴⁸ Lawson, Steven J., *The Unwavering Resolve of Jonathan Edwards*, (Sanford: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2008), 6-7.

Scriptures to her ten children and others. Two of her children later became well-known theologians and musicians, John and Charles Wesley.⁴⁹

b. The Impact of Fearing God in their Family

- i. It is essential to remind the teenager that God has placed them in the correct family. Every member is placed there by God and for His glory. The family cannot be changed but the heart attitude towards each family member can be changed.
- ii. Communicating biblically and communicating often with their family is essential to the family unit and with God's help, each member can glorify God with their speech.⁵⁰
- iii. It is imperative for the teenager to seek ways to honor God in their family no matter how individual family members choose to respond to life's circumstances.

c. The Impact of Fearing God in their Church and Community

- i. The local church is designed to, “equip believers by feeding them through the teaching of God's Word...leading them in corporate praise and worship...protecting them under the shepherding oversight of godly leaders...and providing them with opportunities to serve one another.”⁵¹ For

⁴⁹ Green, Jackie and Lauren Green-McAffee, “The Praying Example of Susanna Wesley”, <https://www.faithgateway.com/praying-example-susanna-wesley/#.Yl-CGZPMI-Q>, last accessed April 19, 2022, last edited, June 5, 2018.

⁵⁰ Mack, Wayne, *Your Family God's Way: Developing & Sustaining Relationships in the Home*, (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 1991), 91-95.

⁵¹ MacArthur, John and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2017), 747.

this reason, it is vital to help the teenager know and understand their role in the church by helping them learn what their spiritual gifts are and using them for God’s glory and the edification of the church.

- ii. It is essential to help the teenager seek out opportunities to serve others out of love for them and not fear. Helping them understand that their position is not an opportunity to focus on self but rather grow in fear of God, and knowledge of Him so that others may see and imitate is critical (Eph 5:1-2; Phil 3:17). This is the calling of every believer.
- iii. It is helpful for the teenager to be reminded that it is ok if they do not pursue full-time ministry in the future.⁵² God does not call all to full-time ministry, but God does call all to faithfully serve wherever He has them and whatever He leads them to do (Matt 25:14-30). Serving in the church and loving their neighbor is for every believer in every stage of life. They should be encouraged to be faithful with this opportunity that many do not have.
- iv. Although there may be people within the church or community that may have intentionally or unintendedly hurt the teenager, the Lord has faithful plans for them in the position they are in. God will faithfully judge the responses of others, but they will also be judged for how they respond in return (Eccl 3:16-17). About God’s sovereignty in this, Jerry Bridges shares that, “neither the willful malicious acts nor the unintended mistakes of people can thwart God’s purposes for us...(Proverbs 21:30).”⁵³

⁵² James, Samuel, “5 Things I learned As a Pastor’s Kid”, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-things-pastors-kid/>, last accessed April 23, 2022, last edited, January 31, 2022.

⁵³ Bridges, *Trusting God*, 28.

- v. It is important for the believing teenager to have a ministry mindset towards those in the church and their community.
- vi. When there is criticism, complaints, and gossip present in the church towards them or their family, it is a temptation to respond in fear (or even anger) towards those specific people in the church. Below are some ways to respond when these things are present ⁵⁴:
 - a. Keep loving them (1 Cor 13:5), overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:14,17-18,21), forgive and cover it over (Matt 6:14-15; Prov 17:9, 10:12), Don't be defensive (when there are complaints and criticism, listen and try to understand it from the other person's perspective), Keep a sense of humor, Praise and thank God (they can still praise God even when others are saying hurtful things), if necessary, confront (sometimes for the sake of unity in the church, it is important to confront).

d. A Plan for Counseling

- i. First, the biblical counselor must make clear to the teenager that they must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The gospel message should be clearly articulated so that the teenager is able to understand the difference between knowing the gospel and believing it. A helpful resource for the gospel presentation is "Presenting the Gospel in the Counseling Room" by Dr. Stuart Scott.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Somerville, Mary, *One with A Shepherd: The Tears and Triumphs of a Ministry Marriage*, (The Woodlands: Kress Christian Publications, 2005), 72-76.

⁵⁵ Appendix B.

- ii. Second, it is important to help the teenager have a correct understanding of themselves in light of their identity in Christ not as a “Pastor’s kid” or “Missionary Kid.” It will be essential to help them see that they need to view themselves as God views them, not as others view them. They are first a child of God before they are a child of “Pastor...” or “Missionary...”.
- iii. Third, it is vital to teach them the difference between sinful fear (fear of man) and good fear (fear of God). Having a biblical understand of the fear of man and what it means to fear God will enable them to differentiate between what pleases God and what dishonors Him.
- iv. Fourth, they are to learn what needs to be “put off” and what needs to be “put on” for biblical heart change to occur. They are to “put off” the fear of another person and “put on” love for them. Fear needs to be replaced with love. Biblical love is the key. Specific truths that should be applied are located under section five of this project.
- v. Fifth, it is vital to help the teenager understand key theological truths such as: the sovereignty of God. Helping them understand that God’s sovereignty is at work in their lives will help them grow to trust Him and His plan for their life.
- vi. Sixth, it is vital to help the teenager begin to view their position as a ministry opportunity to serve others. Helping them to practically show love through words and deeds is essential to grow in their love for others rather than fear of them. A helpful perspective would be to use the words: Love, Know, Speak, Do:⁵⁶
 - a. Love: highlights the importance of relationships in the process of change.

⁵⁶ Tripp, Paul David, *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change*, (Phillipsburg, P & R Publishing, 2002), 108-112.

- b. Know: highlights the importance of becoming acquainted with the people God sends their way.
- c. Speak: involves bringing God's truth to those that He has brought into their life. Speaking the truth in love will help others see themselves through a biblical perspective.
- d. Do: refers to helping others put into action the things that the Lord has taught through His Word.

VII. Conclusion

- a. Because of the position that these teenagers have within the church, there is a greater temptation for them to give in to the fear of man. Unrealistic expectations or criticism from others can contribute to this fear but ultimately it is a decision of the heart. Helping the teenager understand how to complete heart change in this area is critical so that they can live lives that are most honoring to God not because they are in this specific position but because they are believers and followers of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Lovingly and graciously teaching them about fear of man, fear of God, the solution to the fear of God, and how to practice it will be essential to winning the battle against the fear of man.
 - 2. Encouraging them to live for the glory of God where the Lord has them in this season of life is imperative. How they choose to live now will affect their future no matter where the Lord leads them.
- b. The parents of these teenagers have a great responsibility to promote and encourage a genuine lifestyle of godliness inside of the home and outside of the home. Intentional

care and time investment⁵⁷ balanced with biblical training for their hearts in the home will provide greater opportunity for fruit that honors the Lord outside of the home.

- c. The church has a great opportunity to bless and encourage these teenagers to help them be the men and women that God desires them to be.
 1. Reaching out to these teenagers, discipling them, and encouraging them in their walk with the Lord is essential. Rather than assuming they have a great relationship with their parents⁵⁸ and have the help they need with them, it is critical for mature believers to come alongside them and intentionally invest in them. This is one of their greatest desires and needs they have.⁵⁹
 2. Praying for these teenagers and treating them in the same way as other teenagers in the church⁶⁰ (James 2:1-9) will help them to not be fearful of what others may think or say of them. Although the decision to give in to fear is a decision of the heart, the church can still help by intentionally extending grace, care, and help like all other members of the church.
- d. With God's help and encouragement from others, the teenager in this position can choose the fear of God over the fear of man by faithfully choosing to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving their neighbor as themselves (Lk 10:27).

⁵⁷ Piper, *The Pastor's Kid*, 34-35.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 34-35.

⁵⁹ Appendix A

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

APPENDIX A

Survey Results for Missionary Kid and or Pastor's Kid

Survey Questions:

1. What is/was your specific position?
Possible Answers: Pastor's Kid, Missionary Kid, or both?
2. Are you currently a pastor/missionary kid?⁶¹
Possible Answers: Yes or No?
3. Would you say that you struggle or struggled with fear of what others thought of you? Or feel pressured to look and respond in specific ways?
Possible Answers: Yes or No?
4. If you answered yes, what pressures or expectations do you or did you experience? Please specify if they came from your parents or others.
5. What are other struggles that you face or faced in this position?
6. What are some things that would help you (or would have helped you) as a pastor's kid/missionary kid?
7. Judging from your experiences as a pastor's kid or missionary kid would you want to go into ministry?
Possible Answers: Definitely, Maybe, Definitely Not
8. Do you have any additional feedback you would like to share about your experiences as a pastor/missionary kid?

Results:

- 33 people completed this survey: 10 were Pastor's Kids only, 4 were Missionary Kids only, 19 were both.
- 11 were currently in this position and 22 were in the past.
- 30 answered that they struggled with fear of what others thought of them and 3 answered that they did not fear what others thought of them.
- 15 answered that they would "definitely" want to go into ministry, 12 answered that they would "maybe" go into ministry, and 6 said "definitely not".
- Regarding pressures and expectations that they experienced:
 - The majority answered that they felt pressure from others to behave a specific way because of their position as pastor/missionary kids. Some answered that they

⁶¹ for the purpose of this survey, I considered "current" pastor/missionary kids as teenagers who are living with their parents today and those who "have been" pastor/missionary kids in the past as ones who are no longer teenagers.

- wanted to be careful with how they behaved because of their parent's position in the ministry.
- Most responses revealed that pressures and expectations came from both parents and people in the church. Between both options, the expectations of others were most common.
 - Several shared that they struggled to be open with others (inside and outside of the home) about sin or struggles.
 - A few shared that they were expected to be involved in various ministries.
 - Regarding other struggles that they faced in this position:
 - Most struggled spiritually. Several of the struggles included not having a correct understanding of God or knowing how to truly live out the Christian life. A few shared that they did not have a relationship with Christ as a pastor/missionary kid and it was not until later in life that they became believers. Others felt like they could not be open about sin and struggles in general.
 - Pride, people pleasing, and fear of failing were some specific struggles mentioned as well.
 - Some felt like they were “different” than the other people surrounding them.
 - Other struggles that were mentioned were:
 - Not having someone (outside of their family) to talk to and be a mentor/guide for them.
 - Loneliness and not having a lot of friends or friends that were in their same position they can relate with.
 - Church conflict
 - Felt like ministry was more important to their parents than their family.
 - A few shared struggling with mental illness/health.
 - Regarding feedback on what could have been helpful:
 - The most prevalent answer was their desire to have a mentor or someone to disciple them. Someone that they could talk to, be open with, and learn from (outside of the family).
 - Other friends that were in their same position as a pastor's kid or missionary kid.
 - A few mentioned that it would have been helpful to have a more “understanding” home and church environment.
 - Regarding additional feedback:
 - Several mentioned that they truly enjoyed being a pastor's kid/missionary kid! God used their time as a pastor's kid/missionary kid to teach them many things and they were overall thankful for their experience. A few shared that it helped them have a heart for ministry now.
 - Several also shared that they were thankful for their parents and their example in caring for them as best as they could.
 - A few others shared that it would have been helpful to encourage/train parents on the importance of family before ministry.
 - Several shared that even though the experience of being a Pastor's Kid/Missionary Kid had its challenges it was still a good experience that God used to help them grow and shape them into who they are today.

APPENDIX B

Presenting The Gospel in the Counseling Room⁶²

Stuart W. Scott

Introduction:

- **The Current Scene Today**
- **2 Cor 11**
- **1 Cor 15**
- **Acts 16**

I. Understanding God—Part 1: A Few Specific Attributes

- A. There is no one like the one true God—Deut. 4:35; Ps. 86:8, 10; Isa. 40:18, 25–26; 44:6–7a; 46:5, 9.
- B. He is triune (three distinct persons, of one substance, different in function)—Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:1, 14; 5:18; 10:30; Acts 3:3–4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Col. 2:9; 1 Thess. 1:2–5; 1 Peter 1:2.
- C. He is the creator, and he is personal —Gen. 1:26; Ps. 95:6–7; 100:3; Isa. 44:24; John 16:14; 17:1, 4, 22–26; Acts 17:24–25; Col. 1:16–17 (“through him and for him.”)
- D. He is almighty and sovereign—Deut. 32:39; Ps. 24:1–2; 47:7–8; 103:19; 135:5–6; Isa. 46:9–11; Rom. 1:20; 8:28–29.
- E. He is eternal—Isa. 57:15; Col. 1:16–20; Jude 24–25.
- F. He is righteous and holy—1 Sam. 2:2; Ps. 5:4; Isa. 6:3; Hab. 1:13; 1 Peter 1:14–16; 1 John 1:5; Rev. 4:8.
- G. He is just—Deut. 32:4; Ps. 9:7–8; 89:14; Acts 17:31; Gal. 3:10; 1 Peter 3:18.

II. Understanding Man as Originally Created before the Fall

- A. Created in God’s image to worship God, delight in him, reflect his glory, live for his advantage, and proclaim his majesty—Deut. 10:12–13; Ps. 16:11; 73:25–26; Isa. 43:6–7; Col. 1:16–18.
- B. Created to be loved, cared for, blessed by, taught by, satisfied by, and comforted by God, and to walk with him—Gen. 1:27–30; 2:15–17; 3:8; Ex. 6:7; Deut. 4:20; Ps. 100:3; 107:8–9; Isa. 30:18; 43:4; Ezek. 14:11; John 4:24; 14:22–23; Titus 2:14.

III. Understanding Sin—Breaking or Not Keeping God’s Law

- A. Sin began with Satan in heaven—Gen. 3:1–15; Isa. 14:12; Luke 10:18; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.
- B. Sin on earth began with Adam and has been passed to all mankind—Gen. 2:17–18;

⁶² This is used by permission. The outline is an appendix in the book by Martha Peace and Stuart Scott, *The Faithful Parent* (P&R Publishers, 2010). No duplication can be made without permission.

3:1–7; Rom. 3:23; 5:12, 18.

- C. We are responsible individually for choosing to sin—Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 53:6; Ezek. 18:2, 20; Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:10; Eph. 2:1–3.
- D. Sin separates—Gen. 3:8–24; Isa. 53:6a; 59:2; Titus 3:3.
- E. God’s wrath is upon all the unsaved—Ps. 5:4; Prov. 15:8–9; John 3:36; Rom. 1:18.
- F. Death, judgment, and hell are the results of our sin—Ex. 34:6–7; Ps. 7:11; Matt. 10:28; 13:38–42, 49–50; 25:31–46; Acts 17:30; Rom. 6:23; Gal. 3:10; 1 Thess. 1:10; Heb. 9:27; 10:26–27; Rev. 20:11–15.
- G. Mankind has been totally depraved since the fall of Adam—Jer. 17:9–10; Rom. 3:10–18; Eph. 2:1–3; 4:17–19; Titus 3:3.

IV. Understanding Our Hopelessness apart from God’s Grace

- A. Not by nature can we be righteous—Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 53:6; 64:6; John 1:13; Rom. 3:10–18.
- B. Not by works—Eph. 2:8–9; Phil. 3:1–10; Titus 3:4–7; James 2:10.
- C. Not by heritage or lineage—John 1:13; Phil. 3:4–7.
- D. Not by our own will—John 1:12–13; 6:44, 65; Phil. 3:9.
- E. Our debt is insurmountable—Ps. 130:3; Matt. 18:21–35; Luke 7:40–50.
- F. No hope—Rom. 2:2–3; Gal. 3:10, 22–24; Eph. 2:12; Phil. 3:1–10; Col. 3:5–6; 1 Thess. 4:13.

V. Understanding God—Part 2: More Specific Attributes

- A. He is merciful and compassionate—Ex. 33:19; Ps. 36:5; 145:8–9; Isa. 63:9; Lam. 3:31–33; John 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:3; 1 John 4:8.
- B. He is all-wise—Isa. 55:8; Rom. 11:33–34.
- C. He is gracious in two ways:
 1. His common goodness—Matt. 5:43–48; Rom. 2:4.
 2. His salvific (saving) grace for the elect—John 6:37, 44, 65; Rom. 9:15–16; Eph. 1:3–6; 2:4–7; 1 Thess. 1:4.
- D. He is angry with the wicked, yet loving at the same time—Ps. 5:4; Prov. 15:8–9; John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; 4:8–10; Mark 10:17–22.

VI. Understanding the Incarnation

- A. The God-man—John 1:1, 14; Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:5–11.
- B. Jesus’ life: 100 percent righteous—2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15.
- C. Jesus’ death: paid in full for our sin; removed God’s wrath; imputed Christ’s righteousness for believers—Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13–14; 1 Peter 3:18.

- D. God the Father was satisfied with Christ's death—Isa. 53:10–11.
- E. Jesus' resurrection: power over death and hope to come—1 Cor. 15:3–4; 1 Peter 1:3–5.
- F. God offers reconciliation by grace through faith in Christ—Acts 17:30–31; Rom. 6:23; 10:13; 2 Cor. 5:18–19; Eph. 2:13.
- G. God declares believers to be justified through Christ—Rom. 3:24–26.
- H. God offers forgiveness of sins and heaven to believers only through Jesus—John 14:1–6; Acts 4:12; Col. 2:13.
- I. God seeks worshipers and a people for himself through Jesus—Isa. 45:22; John 4:23; Eph. 1:4.

VII. Understanding Saving Faith (“believing”)—John 1:12; 3:16

- A. The knowledge (content) of the gospel, with Jesus as the object of faith—John 17:3; Heb. 6:4; 10:26; James 2:19.
- B. The agreement (intellectual assent) with the gospel facts—Matt. 13:20; John 6:44, 65; Acts 26; Heb. 6:4; James 2:19.
- C. A personal transfer of reliance from oneself to Jesus alone for justification—Isa. 55:6–7; Matt. 13:23; Luke 14:25–33; John 14:21; Acts 3:19; 11:18; 2 Cor. 5:15; Phil. 3:9; 1 Thess. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25–26). This involves godly sorrow and repentance for all sin, an about-face and an all-out pursuit to love, submit to, fully trust in, and follow after the Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to his revealed will, by the Spirit's enablement (grace, Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25). This saving faith will always result in good works (Eph. 2:10; James 2:26). Faith and repentance are the only evidences that a man has a new heart: turning from sin to Christ reveals a new heart; failure to turn from sin and to Christ reveals an old heart.

VIII. Coming to Christ

- A. Not in the wrong way—Matt. 7:21; 19:16–22.
 1. Doing God a favor that is deserving of his grace—“I’m so special.”
 2. Only for fire insurance (to avoid hell at death)—“I don’t want to suffer forever.”
 3. Adding a good and helpful thing to my life—“Why not, it can’t hurt?”
 4. So I can go to heaven with my family—“I want to see and be with them.”
 5. Wanting to become a better person—“I’m already good and this can make me better.
 6. So Jesus can give me what I want, but I’m still living for my advantage.
 7. Wanting to be saved “in my sin” and not “from my sin.”
- B. But in the right way
 1. With the right attitude
 - a. Humbled with a broken and contrite heart over my sin before a holy God—Matt. 5:3–5; Luke 15:18–19; 18:13–14.

- b. Overwhelmed by God's undeserved goodness—Rom. 11:33–36.
- 2. With the right intentions—Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - a. With a true desire and determination to turn from my sin and from living for myself— 2 Cor. 5:15; 7:9–11; 1 Thess. 1:9.
 - b. With a true desire and determination to depend on Christ's righteousness and to live for him—2 Cor. 5:15; 1 Thess. 1:9.
 - c. To whose advantage (“for” whom) am I living? 2 Cor. 5:15
 - i. World—Rom. 12:1–2; 2 Cor. 10:5; 1 John 2:15–17.
 - ii. Sex—1 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:3–8; 1 Tim. 5:1–2.
 - iii. Work—Col. 3:23–25; 2 Thess. 3:6–9.
 - iv. Future—Matt. 6:33; James 4:15.
 - v. Church—1 Cor. 12:12, 25; Eph. 4:11–13; Heb. 10:24–25.
 - vi. Bible—John 14:21; 1 John 5:2–3.
 - vii. Appearance—1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Peter 3:3–4.
 - viii. Others—Rom. 12:9–13; 2 Cor. 5:18–20; Gal. 5:13.

IX. Understanding Our Reconciliation with God—2 Cor. 5

- A. He has given us a new heart—Ezek. 11:19–20; 36:25–27; 2 Cor. 5:17.
- B. God reconciled us (his elect) to himself—2 Cor. 5:17–18; Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18.
- C. He is our God, and we are his people—Rom. 9:23–26; 1 Peter 2:24–25; Rev. 21:3.
- D. He is our shepherd, high priest, comforter, and guide—Ps. 23; John 10:27–28; 2 Cor. 1:3–4; Heb. 4:14–16.
- E. We are to be his ambassadors to others—Matt. 28:19–20; 2 Cor. 5:18, 20.
- F. He will take us home (by death or by his return) to live with him, whom we eagerly await, and worship him forever—John 14:1–3; Col. 3:1–4; 1 Thess. 1:9–10; Rev. 22:1–3.

X. Warning to Those Who Reject the Gospel

- A. Because of unbelief—John 3:36; 5:24; 1 John 2:19.
- B. Because of abandoning the only hope—John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 6:4–8; 10:26–31.
- C. Their way is treacherous—Prov. 13:15; Heb. 3:12–19.
- D. They will never experience what a life of worshiping God is like—Matt. 19:16–22; John 10:10.
- E. They will be separated from God and his grace forever—Rev. 20:12–15; 21:8.

You may download the PowerPoint presentation on www.oneeightycounseling.com

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