



EXODUS

discussion guide

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”
2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation, and Conversation on today’s text:

Date: 11/19/2023 – “Fearing God vs. Fearing Man, Pt. 2” (Exodus 20:20, Proverbs 29:25)

1. How did the story of Butch and the General help you understand the fear of God and how that can progress? How have the last 2 messages helped you to understand fearing God from Exodus 20:20 and the context?
2. How would you differentiate right fear of God vs. wrong fear in the text or in other texts? What are some of the blessings of a healthy fear of God? If needed, consider:
 - 1 Samuel 12:24
 - Psalm 130:4
 - Psalm 145:19, 147:11
3. Pastor Phil defined “fear of man” as including being a people-pleaser (Ephesians 6:5-6), coveting approval or praise of men (John 12:43), being controlled or consumed by what others think or say, or whatever drives or dominates us, etc. In what ways are you tempted to the fear of man?
4. Are there ways you speak of things you “want” as things you “need”? In what ways are those different than how Jesus defined what you need in Luke 12:29-30 and how can those desires control you if not focused on God (consider Luke 12:31, Exodus 20:3-4, 17, Mark 12:30-31)

(continued on back)

5. Consider the following verses:

2 Peter 2:19 "...by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage"

Proverbs 29:25 "the fear of man is a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe."

- In what ways is fearing man a bondage and in what ways can we help ourselves (consider Proverbs 19:23, 14:26-27, Psalm 56:3-4, 9, 118:5-8)

- how can we help others not be caught in this while being careful not to step in that trap (Galatians 6:1, 2:4, 5:1, 1:10)

- how does the example of Moses and Peter encourage you in how God can help people overcome this fear?

6. How should fearing God vs. man affect our work and witness and what we do and say (1 Peter 3:14-15, Ephesians 6:4-5)? If people are big and God is small to you, how can you grow a bigger view of God to decrease self and sinful fear?

For further reading: Isaiah 40, Job 38-42, Psalm 34, 103, 145, etc.

Ed Welch, *When People are Big and God is Small: Overcoming People Pleasing, Co-Dependency, and the Fear of Man*

Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God*

