

Has the Church Lost the Fear of God - David Wilkerson

by From the Pulpit & Classic Sermons

The church has lost the fear of God, leading to increased sin and immorality, and a false gospel that emphasizes God's love without His severity.

Duration: 25:33

Scripture: Matthew 7:22

Topics: "Radio"

Description

The video is a compilation of various speakers discussing the fear of God and the importance of getting right with Him. They emphasize that playing games with God is not an option and that there must be honesty in the heart. The speakers warn that there will be a day of standing before God to give an account and that personal accountability to God is a terrifying thought. They urge listeners to seek God's mercy and to be willing to pay the price to open doors for His use. The overall message is a call to repentance and a reminder of the fear and reverence that should be held for God.

Transcript

Welcome to From the Pulpit and Classic Sermons. Each week we bring you a different message from some of history's greatest speakers in the Christian faith and powerful sermons from modern preachers too. This week we have various speakers with the message, The Fear of God, Has the Church Lost It? Look at your word this morning.

There was a time that you and I fully embraced the heart of God and the will of God and the ways of God and the Word of God. Oh beloved it's now. There was a time in this country when I'm sure you would walk in the house of the Lord and if you were living in willful sin you would tremble.

Oh there was a reverence of God. There was a sense of God's holiness. There's very little of the fear of God among today's Christians.

Now I want to tell you God is no grandfather. He's not one who just ignores anything you do like grandfathers do. What did we read in 1 Peter 1? Spend your entire life on earth.

This is not Old Testament. This is New Testament. It's the Apostle Peter writing 30 years after the day of Pentecost.

Spend your entire life on earth in fear. The same word. I'm supposed to live my entire life on earth 1 Peter 1 17 in fear.

In fear of what? Fear of God. But there was a trembling. There was a time in this country when you walked in the house of God and you knew if you were living in sin you were going to be confronted.

Paul speaks in Romans 11 about the severity and the goodness of God. In what connection? In his dealing with this ancient people. There's no fear in the church for God.

The fear of God is absent from the church and that's why we take the horrendous liberties that we do. For how shall we fear him if we have not known his severity, his judgments, his dealings, how far he will go even with his own ancient people who are yet the apple of his eye despite their fallenness. Even in the church we've lost our sense of the holiness of God.

You know Charles Wesley gave us that lovely children's hymn gentle Jesus meek and mild look upon the little child. But you know some people never get past gentle Jesus. He's lost the fear of God.

There's no fear of God left in the land. This is what the Bible says the fear of the Lord the fear of the Lord and depart from evil. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.

By mercy and truth and iniquity is purged and by the fear of the Lord men depart from their evil. From the fear of the Lord. A reverend fear of God which brings freedom and it's because many Christians do not have that reverend fear of God that they don't come into freedom.

Call it what you want reverential awe call it what you want but there's such a thing as remember that God is not mocked. There's such a thing as looking at the majesty and holiness of God. But a one-sided Christianity which always spoke about always be sure you're accepted before God.

God loves you brother. Don't don't be. Remember God loves you just as you are.

His love is unconditional. It's all true. But if you only look at that you've got one side of God and you've got a one-sided God and you'll see the end result of that in the way you live.

The other is the fear that I may hurt God. There is no awe no sense of fear no deep respect that he's a living God and a seeing and a knowing God and we can't get away with our little gitchy goo and cutting corners as if he does not observe it. The church of Jesus Christ needs a new revelation of the majesty of God.

The remarkable thing is he lets it go on and he's silent and we assume that he has condoned it or he's not seen it until the day comes. Genesis 20 verse 10 and Abraham said verse 11 because I thought surely there is no fear of God in this place and they will kill me because of my wife. There is no fear of God these fellows are sexually.

It is interesting that the first time the Holy Spirit uses the phrase the fear of God is in relation to sexual sin. As I meditated on it the Lord showed me that it is through sexual temptation more than in any other area that I test whether men especially fear me or not. We're not like Paul who always lived in the conscious sense of the judge and the day of judgment that we shall be held accountable for every idle word that we speak and that what all that we have done in our bodies both good and bad will one day come before us when we stand before the judgment of God.

Folks what's it going to be like and I've tried to imagine this what is it going to be like when we stand before the throne every pastor every evangelist when I stand there everyone in this pulpit stands there and everyone who's ever taken the gospel to their lips and we stand before a Holy Christ and the books are opened I can't I can't bear the thought that I would have preached for 20 years here in New York City from this pulpit and that to keep the money flowing or to keep the crowds coming and every seat filled that I should give a half gospel or diluted so I won't offend you in Jeremiah's day the false prophets had the biggest crowds the true prophet could hardly get folks together in Jeremiah's day the thing that was so heavy on his heart was the false prophets told the people what

they wanted to hear and the people naturally flocked and when he would start to prophesy the true word of the Lord the people said would you get this guy to shut up could somebody take care of this guy we don't want to hear this anymore and you see if you have no fear of God you have to invent a gospel of convenience there's all kinds of phony people now of huge followings you just turn on some of the Christian television it's enough to make you sick and they got people writing checks all over the whole country for them and they're not even close but because of the biblical illiteracy among the people they don't know the genuine from the false because only through knowing God's Word are we going to know what's true and this is what's happened in America and around the world you see man

can't get away from that nagging sense and that's the Holy Spirit who says there's death and then there's judgment there's a day of standing before God to give an account the Bible makes it very very clear there's a heaven and there's a hell and there's a day we're going to have to give an account and there is a hell and Jesus said there's a hell of fire and weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth a darkness that can be felt a lot of us share God's Word here and there Paul says how he preached he says in 1 Corinthians 2 verse 3 when I came preaching to you I was with you in weakness and in fear and in trembling preaching with fear and trembling where do we hear of that today people who preach afraid lest they may say something God doesn't want them to say repent or be damned well thank

God someone's still crying it out because that's the whole Bible from the heart of the God of love that you say wouldn't say those words you liberal theologians shame on you sending people to hell just so you can have a job but you don't live from this book sir God will require of you and their blood will be in your hands you better start preaching truth or get out of the pulpit you live for a terrible shock the next moment you'll be in front of God not only with your own soul to give account for but those you kept from truth but today a whole lot of people are learning about grace who haven't learned about the fear of God and you got to learn the fear of God before you can appreciate the grace of God otherwise you'll get a false grace the reverence for God is an essential component

of the true grace of God a grace of God that does not include a reverential fear of God is a false grace verse 17 honor all men love the brotherhood and fear God this is the true grace of God the grace of God which does not include the fear of God is a false grace if you don't contend and fall into a kind of a slipshod easy casualness you are almost guaranteeing your deception I would hate to die in that condition because in whatever condition we end this life or in the Lord's coming in that condition we eternally remain there is no remedy there's a finality there's closure and there's no mercy mercy is gone forever and I believe that many Christians are worshiping a false God God of their imagination who's a grandfather who just loves them do what they like better is a little a little

with the fear of the Lord and great treasure better is a little with the fear of the Lord and great treasure and trouble they with trouble they with and it will come let me tell you you're dealing with a holy God before the

day of judgment sir and if you're saved you're dealing with a God that will chasten you so that you come on in the school of God don't play and think these things will never happen to you conserving integrity with money that's the reason why we have so many lovers of money in Christendom that's the reason why we have so many divorces in Western countries anyway in Christendom today that's why that's the reason why so many fine young believers are defeated by the lust of the eyes 365 days of the year that's why there are so many believers who are involved in internet

pornography you think they lack Bible knowledge they got Bible knowledge oozing out of their ears but and their tongue especially but they haven't learned ABC they haven't learned the fear of the Lord but we have to confess it has not remained primary it's secondary at best it's been lost in the shuffle our car our home our family our job our career our vocation has pushed out the concern of God first the kingdom of God is righteousness really impresses God is if all the drums and the music are all going wonderfully and our singing is so beautiful and the parts go so well but what about the holiness that's the one thing God is looking for 7-1 since we have these wonderful promises let us cleanse ourselves from every filthiness not only of the outward things in the flesh but the inner

things of the spirit thoughts attitudes motives as much as our words and actions and how do we do it we perfect holiness not in the fear of man but in the fear of God those guys are perfecting holiness in the fear of man they're afraid of being exposed in the meeting that's not true holiness here it says we perfect holiness in the fear of God in chapter 2 verse 12 my beloved just as you have always obeyed not as in my presence only but much more my absence work out your salvation with fear and trembling this is New Testament with fear and trembling I have to work out what God works within me what God works inside me I got to work out not casually but with fear and trembling that brings a solemn fear of the Lord in my heart and I persuade men I say hey fellas remember this you're going to

stand before God and don't think with all these justification gimmicks you're going to stand there verse 21 be subject to one another in the fear of Christ is there a place for that in your life fear of Christ we think these are Old Testament verses no Ephesians 5 we lack a consciousness of God actually as present and seeing and observing not only the things that we say and do but even the condition of our secret heart when it's silent you got the picture what am I am I commending some kind of legalism and rob you of your charismatic freedom and bring you into some kind of constraint that God is always there seeing and knowing I'll tell you dear Saints the greatest malady of the church today is the lack of the fear of God as God he will say to me in that day Lord Lord have we not

prophesied in thy name cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works profess unto them I never knew you I never knew you depart from me ye that work iniquity depart from me ye that work iniquity when the church falls into excellent condition do you think this denomination is going to have any power against sin when they become the perpetrators of sin so many people are going to go to hell through these churches they're going to go to hell these pastors will be held responsible you need to contend for the faith continually that is where the devil trips us up a false freedom where we think of God's love God's love God's love God's love and you go through a whole year without ever hearing about the fear of God we got so friendly with Jesus that we've lost our reverence and when I

hear people singing you know put your hand in the hand of him that walked on the water forget it the new song that's out shake hands with Jesus listen when you see Jesus you're not going up and say hey buddy I'm glad you died for me when you see Jesus you'll be almost paralyzed with fear unless you have a glorified body in a glorified mind John the man who had walked with him and talked with him for three

years says that when I saw him I fell at his feet as dead what do you think you and I are going to do well I'll tell you what God looks for is there a man who fears me oh beloved because God says to this man will I look whatever it takes whatever it takes keep me on my knees the fear of God said I saw many great things but the greatest thing that I've ever thought of the most awesome the

most terrifying the most shattering thought I've ever had is my personal accountability to God one day feet are like burnished brass his face is like the Sun in its strength his eyes are living coals of fire his tongue is a sharp threaded sword on man who fears God and hates him with a passion oh no no no no no the man who only wants his sins forgiven is trifling with Christianity this is not the time to play games is extremely dangerous time to play games with God judgment with every secret thing he said be ready at any time because I could come as a thief of the night and so I'm going right back back back to the foundation will you remind people of the goodness and the severity of God the most precious thing we have a handle is the human soul the player to one day we'll go up in dust

the cistern chapel will be blown to smithereens that the soul of a man will live forever and ever and ever and ever either in eternal darkness or eternal bliss heaven is impeccable joy there'll be no sorrow hell is eternal misery there's no joy there is only one way to heaven there are a million ways to hell if I believe that and I'm sitting watching a r-rated movie I believe that and yet I carry grudges the wrench of the vengeful spirit can't lay down the hurt the question arises what is God telling you to stay away from this is this is where we move towards truth or we cover our own selves with a garment of religion you've heard a lot of things today alone in your mind just like Abraham heard one night in his bed God spoke to him give up your son you've heard some things today nobody

else heard it the person sitting next to you didn't hear it you're like Abraham read Genesis 22 where he spoke something to only to you even Sarah sitting sleeping next to him didn't hear it person sitting next to you hasn't heard it your wife didn't hear it your husband in here you heard something now God is testing you whether you'll obey that or not Abraham obeyed God said to him Genesis 22 now I know that you fear me this is a call to each one of us what is the Holy Spirit telling you right now to walk away from see this is where you're going to make a choice you're going to either cover sin with religion are you going to throw off that garment and move towards a holy God and say Lord I'm I'm going where you're calling me don't put off what God's called you to do the more you put it

off the greater chance that you'll make peace with it if you have doubtful practices in your life put them away if you have embraced sin believing erroneously today that there'd be no judgment for it flee that as quickly as you can walk in what is right the New Covenant is a wonderful wonderful truth but it's only for the honest Christian it is not a contract for dishonesty it is not a covering for willful rebellion folks against God there is no protection for you Zia and there is no protection for the person who willfully embraces wrong if you don't believe that then read Acts chapter 5 and see what happened to Ananias and Sapphira that was New Covenant Christianity and they died by the hand of God folks the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom don't ever lose the fear of God God

is wonderful loving just and kind but you cannot mock him you cannot play games with a holy God there has to be an honesty in the heart but I'm giving to you now is the mercy of God who so loved you that he put you in a seat in this church this day and said today now is a time to make it right but my calling this morning is a watchman and I'm telling you now what I believe the Holy Spirit is saying it's time to get right with God he's saying I have wooed you so many times this time I say to you in great love from the Lord and from his heart if you pay the price I'll open doors for you I'll speak through you I'll use you again I could

have never conceived but you see for a few this is the last call I say it in the spirit and with love so be careful what you do with this sermon now sir you

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