

When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

(Taken from When People Are Big, Ed Welch, P & R Publishing, 1997)

Prov. 29:25 – The fear of man brings a SNARE . . .

The Scripture gives three basic reasons why we fear other people:

- We fear other people because they can EXPOSE and HUMILIATE us;
- We fear other people because they can REJECT, RIDICULE, or DESPISE us;
- We fear other people because they can ATTACK, OPPRESS, or THREATEN us.

These three reasons have one thing in common: they see people as “bigger” (that is, more POWERFUL and SIGNIFICANT) than GOD, and, out of the fear that creates in us, we give other people the POWER and RIGHT to tell us what to FEEL, think, and DO.

The debut of our fear of other people came in the GARDEN OF EDEN. (See Gen. 3:7)

What term (word) was used illustrate shame?

How does this symbolize spiritual shame?

See Job 26:6, Ezek. 23:28-29, & Heb. 4:13

Shame, and its feeling of DISGRACE before God and others, surfaces in our culture as low SELF-ESTEEM.

How are “shame” and “low self-esteem” related?

How are they different?

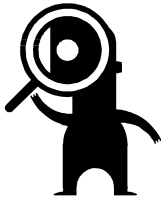
*“The massive interest in self-esteem and self-worth exists because it is trying to help us with a real problem. The problem is that we really are not okay. There is no reason why we should feel great about ourselves. We truly are deficient ... The problem is, in part, our nakedness before God.” (Welch, When People Are Big and God Is Small, pg. 29) **Agree or disagree?***

The roots of shame-induced fear of others lie in our RELATIONSHIP to God. (See Luke 23:28-30)

Because of sin still present within us, we experience EMBARRASSMENT, SHAME, the feeling of being EXPOSED and VULNERABLE.

THERE IS AN ANSWER – See Rom. 4:13-5:1!

2 Tim. 1:7 – For God has not given us a spirit of FEAR, but of power and of LOVE and of a sound mind.



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The Scripture gives three basic reasons why we fear other people:

- We fear other people because they can _____ and _____ us;
- We fear other people because they can _____, _____, or _____ us;
- We fear other people because they can _____, _____, or _____ us.

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