



When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

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

1 Sam. 15:24 – ... I feared the PEOPLE and obeyed their VOICE.

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.

Name some practical ways in which people reject us

Biblical examples of the fear of rejection:

Deut. 1:17

1 Sam. 15

John 12:42-43

Luke 22:54-62

Gal. 2:11-13

Both shame-fear and rejection-fear indicate that PEOPLE are our favorite IDOL.

In what ways do other people become functional idols?

Something is a functional idol when we BELIEVE it has the power to BLESS us or GIVE us something.

In all idolatry, though, the idol we choose to worship soon OWNS us. The object we fear OVERCOMES us.

In what ways does an idol do this?

Not so with Christ! (See Matt. 22:16)

Not so with Paul! (See 1 Thes. 2:4)

Not so with Peter! (See 1 Pet. 3:13-14)



When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

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

1 Sam. 15:24 – ... I feared the _____ and obeyed their _____.

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.

Name some practical ways in which people reject us

Biblical examples of the fear of rejection:

Deut. 1:17

1 Sam. 15

John 12:42-43

Luke 22:54-62

Gal. 2:11-13

Both shame-fear and rejection-fear indicate that _____ are our favorite _____.

In what ways do other people become functional idols?

Something is a functional idol when we _____ it has the power to _____ us or _____ us something.

In all idolatry, though, the idol we choose to worship soon _____ us. The object we fear _____ us.

In what ways does an idol do this?

Not so with Christ! (See Matt. 22:16)

Not so with Paul! (See 1 Thes. 2:4)

Not so with Peter! (See 1 Pet. 3:13-14)