



When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

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

Ps. 27:1 – The Lord is the strength of my LIFE; of whom shall I be AFRAID?

Codependent No More (Melodie Beattie) offered atrocious solutions to the fear of man, but she did a good job defining it. Can you see how people can become “functional idols”? Codependents may . . .

Think and feel responsible for other people

Feel compelled to help people solve their problems

Get tired of feeling like they give to others but no one gives back

Blame, blame, blame

Feel unappreciated

Fear rejection

Feel ashamed of who they are

Worry whether other people like them or not

Focus all their energy on other people and problems

Threaten, bribe, beg

Say what they think will please, provoke, or get them what they need

Manipulate

Let other people keep hurting them and never say anything

Feel angry

Feel like a martyr

Be extremely responsible or irresponsible

Certain INFLUENCES can leave us more prone to sinful TENDENCIES (e.g. lust – pornography).

How does Prov. 12:18 & 15:4 support this statement?

How does Prov. 14:17 & 29:22 support this statement?

What theme is Moses emphasizing in Deut. 1:21, 1:29, 3:2, 3:22, 5:29, 6:1-2, 6:13, 10:12, 10:20, 13:4, 17:19, 28:58-67, 31:6-8?

The fear of man is the sinful EXAGGERATION of a normal experience ... it is fear run amok ... it is a fear that forgets GOD

David is an illustration that BAD experiences don't have to provoke the SINFUL fear of people. (See Ps. 27:1-4)

Idolatrous fear of people occurs when DESIRES become DEMANDS for the attention and provision of others; when our desires become more important than the GLORY of God.

The biblical view of victimization:

- Begins with knowing & understanding God's COMPASSION ;
- Proceeds with an EXAMINATION of our own hearts; and
- Ends with TRUSTING and believing that our God is the almighty God who is just and LOVING.

Jeremiah 17 is the classic biblical text on the fear of man – what two options are presented in this chapter?



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A N D G O D I S S M A L L

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