

When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

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

1 John 4:18 – . . . perfect LOVE casts out fear . . .

OBJECTIVE: To view others and our responsibilities to them through a BIBLICAL lens, and to discipline our minds so that we RESPOND biblically to their threats of shame, exposure, and/or violence.

BIBLICAL PICTURE: People fall into one of three categories:

- ENEMIES
- NEIGHBORS
- BROTHER/SISTER

What is an enemy?

Psalm 55:12-14

Who is my neighbor?

Matthew 22:36-40

Luke 10:25-37 – Jesus expanded the normal boundaries of neighbors to the point where the story is about two ENEMIES - a Jew and a Samaritan.

EVERYONE, then, is my neighbor!

Who is my brother/sister?

Galatians 6:9-10

In what ways do these enemies of “brotherly love” work:

Flesh

Satan

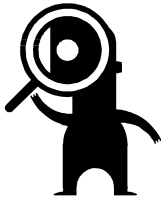
World

“When we think of ourselves as ALONE and ISOLATED, we will always be prone to the FEAR OF MAN ... isolation and the FEAR OF MAN are companions.” (pg. 198)

Biblical community expressed through the local church fellowship allows us to be obedient to such commands as:

- Pray without CEASING (1 Thes. 5:17)
- Go into ALL the world and make disciples (Matt. 28:18)
- Provide FINANCIALLY for all widows who are widows indeed (1 Tim. 5:3-16)

God’s Word consistently urges us toward love for GOD and love for OTHERS; as we follow this path, we find that we are no longer dominated by an IDOLATROUS fear of others.



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