



When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

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

Gal. 2:12 – . . . he withdrew . . . FEARING those who were of the circumcision.

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.

There are many men and women in the Bible who are good examples of both the fear of God, and the fear of man – let's look at two:

Daniel (Daniel 1)

How did Daniel get to Babylon? How old was he?

What was the issue facing Daniel and his friends? What were the options given to them?

Is there any indication from this text or later passages that Daniel would have eaten the king's portions?

- **PRINCIPLE:** The fear of the Lord SIMPLIFIES life.

Of the three basic biblical reasons (rejection, exposure, attack) for the fear of other people, which did Daniel face?

- A basic human instinct is SELF-PRESERVATION; Daniel determined that OBEDIENCE was more important than acceptance by the king of Babylon.

Peter (Galatians 2:11-13)

What/who did Peter fear?

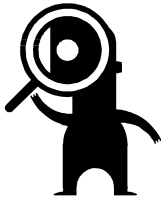
In what way did Peter's enemies control him?

- **PRINCIPLE:** The person who fears GOD will fear NOTHING else.

What did Paul call Peter's sin?

- The most tragic aspect of the fear of man in believers is that it compromises the GOSPEL - how?
- Peter was an APPROVAL junkie early in his Christian life, but he seems to have matured. (See 1 Peter 3:13-14)

May we be more afraid to act SINFULLY than to disappoint ourselves or OTHERS !



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