

LET'S BE REASONABLE

A. Beginning last week and then continuing so far today, I've been directing your attention to what the Bible says about fear, especially the kind of fear described in Proverbs 29:25.

B. In the course of our studies we've noted how pervasive and prevalent and powerful the fear of man is.

C. In this session, I want to discuss with you the ultimate solution to the sinful fear of man problem we have. In our past studies, we've already hinted at the solution in passing, but now I want to spend some time focusing on the ultimate antidote to the sinful fear of man. In one sentence we could say that **the one key principle which will help us to overcome the fear of man is developing and sustaining a healthy, wholesome, vibrant fear of God. Mark it down and note it well.** The Bible indicates the way to stop fearing is to start fearing.

Today as we consider the doctrine of the fear of God, I want to especially emphasize two unmistakable biblical truths about it.

I. Here's truth number 1 – the Bible makes it very clear that the fear of God is an Absolute Requirement for the Christian.

A. The fear of God is not an optional assignment. It's an absolute requirement.

B. Moses asks Israel in Deuteronomy 10:12, "Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you?"

II. Now, here's truth number 2 about the fear of God – the Bible also makes it very clear that for us to fear God is the most reasonable thing you can do.

A. The Bible indicates that it makes sense to fear God.

B. We need to see God for who He is.

III. Brings us to the question – why is it only reasonable for us to fear God? Give you several reasons why fearing God is the reasonable thing for us to do.

A. First, it is only reasonable for us to fear God because He is awesome.

B. Second, it is only reasonable that we should fear God because He is the Creator of all men and the Creator of all things.

C. Third, it is only reasonable that we should fear God because He is the Sustainer of all things.

D. Fourth, it is only reasonable that we should fear God because He's the Sovereign over all men, all animals, all things, all angelic beings.

E. Fifth, it is only reasonable that we should fear God because He is the judge of all men.

F. Still further, it is only reasonable that we should fear God because He is the only Redeemer of men.

G. We should fear God because He is infinitely superior to anyone and anything. He is beyond comparing. He is infinitely transcendent.

Conclusion; Application Assignments:

A Assignment 1: ask yourself: What relevance should the facts that *God is Creator* , *God is Judge*, *God is Holy* *God is the only Redeemer*, *God is incomparable*, God is awesome have for me in my daily life?

B. Second assignment, ask and answer the following question: in what ways does my view of God affect my daily life in terms of my thoughts, my words, my actions, my r interactions with people and my responses to the pleasant or difficult things I face throughout the day?

C. 3rd assignment, ask and answer the question: in what is ways or areas do I need to improve my thoughts about God in the practical details of daily living?

D. Final assignment, what are some practical steps you can take to develop a more biblical and influential understanding of who God is?