

# Pastor Tom Wilson





15.12.10 0000.0  
2:36



# “What Can Man Do to Me?”

---

The Dangerous Draw of the Fear  
of Man from Trusting in God

Psalm 118

Last Week - Psalm 37

Our confidence and trust must  
always remain in God.

## Central Idea

Our fear of man draws us away  
from our trust in God.

Fear is generally the desire to avoid undesired/negative consequences.

“Fear of man” is generally the desire to avoid undesired/negative consequences from a particular person(s).

## Examples – Proper “Fear of Man”

Parents – Lev 19:1-3

Governing Authorities – Rom 13:1-7

Husbands – Eph 5:33

# Fear (respect) those who...

1

God has established as an authority  
over us and

2

are earnestly seeking to do that  
which God has established them to  
do.

There is a “fear of man” that is grounded in godliness.

A proper fear of man is rooted  
in the fear of God.

## Other Examples & Counter-Examples

**Joseph** – Matt 2:22

**Herod** – Mark 6:20

**Unrighteous Judge** – Luke 18:1-7

**Peter** – Gal 2:12

**Jesus** – Matt 10:28

## Principle

Our fear of man can never be elevated over our fear of God.

# Fear [fɪər] n.

Five Diagnostic Questions

Am I more concerned with what  
man can do to me than what God  
has said to me?

---

Psalm 118:1-6

Do I find greater security trusting in  
what other people can do for me  
than what God does and has done  
for me?

---

Psalm 118:7-13

Do I find my greatest satisfaction  
and joy in the approval of man  
rather than in the salvation of God?

---

Psalm 118:14-17

Would I rather find relief from my  
sin in the ways of the world  
rather than rest and assurance  
in the discipline of God?

---

Psalm 118:18

Do I place my hope and trust more  
in the character of other people  
than I do in the character of God?

---

Psalm 118:1-4, 28-29

Am I fearful of a person(s)  
because I desire what they can  
give/withhold/take from me more  
than I desire God?