

Pastor Tom Wilson







“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.

to be be
point of view
Fear [fiər] n. T
emotion or p
expectation
accomplish

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

to be be
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Fear [fiər] n. T
emotion
expectation
accomplish

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.

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Five Diagnostic Questions

1

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

Psalms 118:1-6

2

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

3

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

Psalm 118:14-17

4

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

5

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?