

Wisdom for a Smartphone Age

Fearing Man vs. Fearing God

Rom. 12:1-2

A Brief Study on the Fear of Man

- A Biblical Description
 - Prov. 29:25
 - Gal. 1:10
 - Matt. 6:1
 - Matt. 10:28-33
 - John 12:42-43
 - 1 Thess. 2:1-6
 - Jer. 17: 5-8

“We fall into fear of man when we desire the approval of others so much that we need them, (for ourselves), more than we love them, (for the glory of God). – Ed Welch

- The Biblical Solution
 - The Fear of the Lord
 - Ps. 34:9; Pr. 9:10
 - Put Off Fear/Put On Love
 - Matt. 22:37-39
 - “Need other people less, love other people more” – Welch

A Few Thoughts on Social Media:

- Four Major Featuresⁱ:
 - 1) User Profiles
 - 2) User-generated content
 - 3) Networking
 - 4) Interactivity

Book Discussion:

Have you ever wondered why it feels so natural to communicate with others online but it sometimes feels awkward to communicate with others at church on Sunday mornings? – pg. 69-70

...online communities of like-minded friends are often marked by a “positive feedback loop,” where “affirmation and assent merely reinforce existing prejudices...”communities become insular, echo chambers of accepted opinion, closed to opposing voices,”... (pg. 72)

“In a solid, God chosen relationship with Jesus, man’s disapproval cannot hurt you and man’s approval cannot satisfy you. Therefore, to fear the one and crave the other is sheer folly.” – pg. 74

Diagnostic Questionsⁱⁱ for Discussion at Home:

- Is your phone the first activity in your morning?
- Is your first impulse when you’re unoccupied to reach for your phone?
- Do you pull out your phone to check it when you’re with people you know?
- If your phone broke or you lost your phone, how would you immediately react?
- If a close friend or family member asked you to take a break from using your phone for a month, how would you respond?

ⁱ Haidt, Jonathan, *Anxious Generation*. Pg. 116.

ⁱⁱ <https://thecripplegate.com/who-owns-your-phone-christian-caution-in-the-online-frontier/>