

How does the fear of others control you? What can you do about it? This will be our 2010 study.

**Recognize that the Fear of Man is a major theme both in the Bible and in your own life**

Read Proverbs 29:25

The Bible gives three main reasons why people fear others

1. We fear people because they can expose and humiliate us
2. We fear people because they can reject, ridicule, or despise us
3. We fear people because they can attack, oppress, or threaten us

All three of these reasons have something in common. What is it?

**The Fear that Comes from Shame**

1. Shame from Sin      Genesis 3:7-10  
-The prank call illustration
2. Shame from being victimized or sinned against      Proverbs 19:26
3. Shame in Today's World  
Our world calls shame "low self-esteem"
  - a. The lesson: We really are less than we ought to be. We are deficient. There is no reason for us to feel great about ourselves.

**The Sinful Answer**

1. Hide – "The walls are ten feet thick. Nobody can come in, and I can't get out."
2. Spy – We like to see others' failures. Why?

**The Savior's Answer**

1. God's knowledge of us – a true knowledge. Psalm 139:1 ; Psalm 119:120

We carry the shame with us all the time. Other people who might find out just trigger the appearance of our shame which we already have. The ultimate problem APPEARS to be with other people seeing me. The REAL problem is within ourselves, and between God and ourselves.

2. God hides and shelters us. Bible proof?  
Romans 8:1, 31-34
3. Do I love others in Jesus' name? Or am I more interested in protecting myself from them?  
How can I think less often about myself? To be continued.....