When People are BIG and God is Small
by Edward T. Welch (pages 9-22)

Introduction:

Definition of the "Fear of Man"
- "Fear" in a biblical sense is much broader than being terrified or afraid of others. It includes being afraid of someone, but it extends to holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshipping other people, putting your trust in people, or needing people." (14)

- Summary: WE REPLACE GOD WITH PEOPLE.

Indications that you still struggle with the fear of man:
- Have you ever struggled with peer pressure?
- Are you over-committed?
- Do you "need" something from your spouse? Do you "need" your spouse to listen to you? Respect you?
- Is self-esteem a critical concern for you?
- Do you ever feel as if you might be exposed as an imposter?
- Are you always second-guessing decisions because of what other people might think? Are you afraid of making mistakes that will make you look bad *in other people's eyes?*
- Do you get easily embarrassed?
- Do you ever lie, especially the little white lies? What about cover-ups where you are not technically lying with your mouth?
- Are you jealous of other people?
- Do other people make you angry or depressed?
- Do you avoid people?
- Aren't most diets, even when they are ostensibly under the heading of "health," dedicated to impressing others?

The world's answer:

The Biblical answer:

Where do you go from here?
- You must think less about yourself. (John 3:30)
- You must develop a healthy fear of the Lord. (Prov 9:10)
- You must grow in your love for others and desire to please God. (2 Cor 12:15; I Cor 10:31-33)