

American Family
The Fear of God in Marriage

*After the nation was founded, Samuel Adams (Father of the American Revolution) wrote to his cousin, John Adams, "Let divines and philosophers, statesmen and patriots, unite their endeavors to renovate the age, by impressing the minds of men with the importance of educating their little boys and girls, **of inculcating in the minds of youth the fear and love of the Deity.**"*

In reviewing modern American life I've come to believe it is the lack of the fear of the Lord that is responsible for the state of marriage today.

How does the fear of God influence marriage?

- ★ It puts God in His rightful place.

How does it do that?

(1) It teaches us that all actions have consequences.

- Gal. 6:7 - *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*
- The modern church has a distorted teaching on grace (there are no consequences).
- "I don't serve God out of fear."

(2) It delivers us from an exalted view of our own opinion & perspective.

- Psalms 111:10 - *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.*
- 2 Cor. 7:1 - *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)*
 - I'm less afraid of what God will do than what I will do!
- Only by humility comes grace (James 4:6) - *"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*

(3) It removes arrogant expectations

- Psalms 25:14 - *The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.*
- A lot of people just don't get "covenant". Why marriages fail.
- Many singles and divorcees are angry at God.

The fear of the Lord teaches us that keeping God's commandments is more important than personal happiness!

Prov. 14:26 - *In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.*

Response

Have I violated God's principles for marriage because of a lack of the fear of the Lord?

Marriage scriptures – Prov. 5:18; 12:4; 18:22; 19:13,14; 31:10; Matt. 19:3-9; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-19; I Pet. 3:1-7