

Main point: Live in this unbelieving world as people who fear the Lord

Point 1: You should not respond to hostility with hostility

Matthew 5:38-41

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”

Luke 6:27-28

“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:32-36

“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same...But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

Point 2: You should bless those who are hostile to you

Point 3: You will be blessed with a happy life

“It is worth noticing how anxious our culture has become. Seeing where our society now is can help us understand why we have a problem with fear – and why the fear of God is just the tonic we need. These days, it seems, everyone is talking about a culture of fear. From Twitter to television, we fret about global terrorism, extreme weather, pandemics, and political turmoil. In political campaigns and elections, we routinely see fear rhetoric used by politicians who recognize that fear drives voting patterns...We are flooded with more causes of worry than ever. Fears that once we would never have shared cross the world in seconds ...As a whole, we are an increasingly anxious and uncertain culture...The certain safety we long for evades us, leaving us feeling vulnerable...(even though) we live more safely than ever before. From seatbelts to airbags in our cars to the removal of lead paint and asbestos from our homes, our safety is guarded more than our shorter-lived ancestors could have imagined...(Yet) protected like never before, we are skittish and panicky like never before.”

Bill Kittrell
1 Peter 3:9-12
The People Who Fear the Lord

Sermon Quotes
Sunday, February 7, 2021

“With society having lost God as the proper object of healthy fear, our culture is necessarily becoming ever more neurotic, ever more anxious about the unknown - indeed, ever more anxious about anything and everything.”

Michael Reeves

Rejoice and Tremble: The Surprising Good News of the Fear of the Lord

“When the heart of man has once felt a sweet taste of God’s goodness, and found that in his favor only all happiness consists, it is stricken with an inward awe and reverence (the fear of the Lord).”

William Gouge

“(The fear of the Lord flows primarily) from a sense of the love and kindness of God to the soul...from some sense of hope of mercy from God by Jesus Christ...Indeed nothing can lay a stronger obligation on the heart to fear God, than sense of, or hope in mercy (Jeremiah 33:8-9). This causes true tenderness of heart, true godly softness of spirit; this truly endears the affections to God...(This is) the very essence of this fear of the Lord.”

John Bunyan

A Treatise on the Fear of God

“If men would but dig to the root of their fears, they would certainly find unbelief there, Matthew 8:26, ‘Why are you afraid, O ye of little faith!’ The less faith, still the more fear: Fear is generated by unbelief, and unbelief strengthened by fear...and therefore all the skill in the world can never cure us of the disease of fear, till God first cure us of our unbelief...”

John Flavel

A Practical Treatise on Fear

“Scripture assumes that we live with fear and anxiety. We are weak people who can control very little. Our reputation, finances, loved ones, and even our lives are at risk every day. The psalms are filled with human fears and anxieties – and these are words that the Lord asks us to speak to him. He actually wants to hear about our fears.”

Ed Welch