

Fear versus Love

I. _____ between love and fear

Love

Love looks for opportunities to _____
(John 3:16)

Love lays down its _____ for another
(1 John 3:16)

Love _____ all things
(1 Cor 13:7)

Love never _____
(1 Cor 13:8a)

Fear

Fear keeps a _____ eye on possible consequences of involvement.

Fear will not take personal _____ to help another.

Fear is highly _____

Fear occasions greater _____
– failure to assume responsibilities brings more fear of consequences of acting irresponsibly.

II. **God's love and fear**

Man on his own stands apart from God and enslaved to sin. This slavery produces fear, and this fear can only be conquered by being set free by Christ.

Hebrews 2:14-15

God's love for us, demonstrated through the death of Christ for us, brings us out of a relationship of enmity with God into a father/son (daughter) relationship. Thus our fear of God is not as a slave fears his master but with the reverence a son has for a father.

Romans 5:8; 8:15

The fact that Christ loves us and has given his life for us means that we are able to be victorious over any trial through faith in him.

Romans 8:35-39

1 John 5:4-5

The work of the Holy Spirit within every believer enables us to conquer fear and instead be characterized by power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Because we have been loved by Christ, we are called to love others and are given the ability to do so.

John 13:34-35

As we grow in our assurance of God's love, as well as our love for God, fear is conquered.

1 John 4:17-18

To the extent that God's love is perfected within you, you will be able to conquer fear.

III. Love, _____, and fear

1 Corinthians 13:5

Although we may not often think of it this way, selfish people tend to be fearful. And fearful people are by necessity to some degree selfish.

- Love is being more concerned with what I can _____ than what I can _____
- Selfishness is being more concerned with what I can _____ than what I can _____

- Fear is being more concerned with what I _____
than what I can _____

So selfishness and fear correspond to a lack of _____

Contrasting _____

Fearful person

I wonder what he'll think of me.

I'd better not let him get too close to me.

If he gets too close, he'll realize I am not perfect and then he'll reject me.

I've got to keep him from finding out about my problems.

I'll probably make a fool of myself.

I'm afraid to get involved.

Maybe I can be a good influence on him.

What matters is not what he thinks of me but how I can minister to him.

I wonder if he has any problems I can help him solve God's way?

If I make a fool of myself, so be it. I'm more concerned about meeting his needs than I am about what he thinks of me.

He needs my help and so I will get involved.

Loving person

I wonder what his needs are?

I. _____ in the love of God

a. Know you are in _____

Romans 10:9-10

Romans 8:1-4

b. _____ on the love of God

Romans 5:1-8

Ephesians 3:14-19

c. Focus on the two greatest _____

Matthew 22:36-40

Galatians 5:14