

The Joy of Fearing God

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Isaiah 6:1ff.

B. The fear of God is the awe of God at who He is and what He has done for us.

II. Holiness describes the majesty of God's character.

A. God is separate from His creation. He is royal, sovereign and transcendentally majestic. (Isaiah 6:1ff; Revelation 4:1-11)

B. The heavenly beings recognize His great holiness.

C. The sight of God's majesty causes Isaiah to recognize the seriousness of his sin. Breaking God's law is an affront to the majesty of God.

III. God's character defines moral purity.

A. Sin is an affront to God's moral character.

B. Sin says, "God, I don't want to be like you."

C. God does not leave Isaiah in his guilt. He addresses Isaiah's consciousness of his particular sin.

1. God will not violate his justice in order to be merciful.

2. Jesus satisfies God's sense of justice. (Isaiah 53)

a) God's grace is only for sinners.

b) We have to take responsibility for our sin to receive God's grace.

D. God's forgiveness inspires Isaiah's "blank check" response.

1. The fear of God is the recognition of who God is.

2. The fear of God is the recognition of what He has done.

Application questions:

1. Have you ever been confronted by the majesty of God's character? How would you describe the experience?

2. Jerry essentially says in this teaching that our sin is a personal insult to God. How does that knowledge impact your perspective of your own sin?

3. When you realize that God has forgiven your specific sins, what response does it invoke in you?
