

# Fearless 3 – 05/22/11

The impact of fear upon our relationships is staggering.

God made us for relationships and for those relationships to be governed by love and not fear.

## **I John 4:18-19**

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear has torment and brings with it the thought of punishment and so he who is afraid (of punishment from God) has not reached the full maturity of love and is not yet grown into love's complete perfection.

19 We love Him, because He first loved us.

Fear has torment, and when fear finds a lodging place in the way we process our relationships, we will live a tormented life.

Ultimately FEAR in RELATIONSHIPS will be reduced to a FEAR of REJECTION. (It is what we fear most about God.)

## **Hebrews 2:14-15**

14 Since we, God's children, are human beings-made of flesh and blood - Jesus became flesh and blood too by being born in human form; for only as a human being could he die and in dying break the power of the devil who had the power of death.

15 And also that He might deliver and completely set free all those who through ***the haunting fear of death*** were held in bondage and ***living in constant dread*** throughout the whole course of their lives.

People fear **dying**, because they fear rejection from God upon judgment.

People fear **living**, because they fear rejection from those they love.

**Our lives will move no higher than the quality of our relationships.**

Every person is created by God to have needs that can only be met by relationships with people.

When God made Adam, he gave him **authority** and **ownership** and a **direct relationship** with Him.

His "VERTICAL" relationship with God was complete and met needs in his life that only God can meet.

Still nothing in that environment met his needs on a "HORIZONTAL" level.

**Genesis 2:18** - And the LORD God said, It ***is not good, prosperous or to his welfare*** that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him and suitable to his ***needs***.

## **3 FEARFUL WAYS OF RESPONDING TO OUR NEEDY NATURE**

- 1. Selfishly – I'm needy; therefore, you better meet my needs or I'll manipulate or control you.**
- 2. Self Reliantly – I don't need you or anyone**
- 3. Self Condemningly – I'm no good; therefore, no one can meet my needs.**

We are all needy people who need people!

How does FEAR enter into our relational lives?

**Genesis 2:24-25**

24 Therefore shall a man *leave his father and his mother*, and *shall cleave, catch by pursuit, follow closely, pursue hard after, or stick unto his wife*: and they shall be one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed or disappointed.

Mom and Dad—first place to have your needs met.

Unmet needs create deficits or fear based beliefs that govern our lives.

Leave Mom and Dad, and our spouse is intended by God to meet those needs.

Unmet needs in marriage create vacuums (Vacuums don't exist in human need for long)

**Relational Behavior** is dictated by need, not commitment or lack of one

**Relational Behavior** is changed by affecting beliefs, not focusing on modifying behavior

The temptation to pour our energy into our behavior, instead of our beliefs will bring constant defeat and discouragement.

You don't have enough **energy** to change your **behavior** in your relationships, but you do have the energy to change your **beliefs**.

We all desire the right outcome, but often reject the process that will bring us to actually experience our desired outcome.

When we justify permitting fears and wrong beliefs to govern our lives, we are in essence saying, "**I have earned the right to be this way, because of what others have done to me.**"

As a Christian, we aren't defined by "**What Was Done To Us<sub>1</sub>**," but "**What Was Done For Us!**"

Yet, what we believe about relationships has been largely shaped by "**What Was Done To Us<sub>1</sub>**," not by "**What God Has Done For Us.**"