

## CouplesInBloom.com – Managing Christianity

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Despite common quotes, do we as Christians actually fear God (mentioned 30 times in the Bible) in our everyday life and way of thinking? “Perfect love casts out fear” and “there is no fear in love” ⇒ 1 John 4:18 is a *different context* than “the fear of the Lord.” Both contexts address different aspects of God’s authority. “No fear in love” speaks of the outcome of owning “the fear of the Lord.” However: *if our fear of the Lord fades*, 14 verses in the Old Testament Proverbs say ⇒ *evil will replace that fear in us*... slowly.

The fear of the Lord is *so* important that satan popularized “OMG” to reduce the concept to a mere byword. Satan has no self-control so things he emphasizes expose his plans against God to us. Those who cherish the fear of the Lord live with a carefulness about everything... born out of a highly communicative and intimate spiritual relationship with the Holy Spirit. This quality and lack of it does reveal itself in our life for all to see. Get the picture God paints about how we **manage** our **Christianity**:

Psalm 39:1 ⇒ we protect our own *ways* from sin.

Philippians 2:12 ⇒ we protect our own *words* from sin.

Jeremiah 17:21 ⇒ we protect our own *actions* from sin.

Exodus 23:13 ⇒ in everything we live *looking* all around us to not even seem like sin.

Psalm 4:4 ⇒ we take time to be quiet and get chills (literally) *thinking* about God.

With precision, 2 Timothy 3 ⇒ describes how Christians will fall away in these end times and we see it happening to those we would never expect. Did they ever read those verses? Probably... but so did satan; what matters is if we are **managing** our **Christianity** so that we fear God. **God is not user-friendly**: He will *not be used*; He wants *intimacy* instead.

Much of advertised Christianity is **mis-empowered**: some by worship of the Bible instead of God (can you say Pharisee?), some by legalism, some by sloppy agape (abuse of grace), some by tradition, and many by self-deception. Christianity empowered by the reciprocated love of God frees us from the garbage and baggage of the previous list and, most importantly, provides the authentic power that the previous list falsely said it had. Once experienced, the difference is embarrassing... but good to finally own the real deal.

Much of advertised Christianity is **Off The Air**: it has *no live* application to it; it is mere intellectualism without relational manifestation... especially to non-Christians, the ones who need it most. Christians who do not make disciples are like pizza shops that do not make pizza ⇒ Matthew 28:19; they are **dead by definition**. Such is self-deception, not Christianity. Christians must now ask themselves, “What the Heaven am I doing?” because God will ask each of us the same question as soon as this life on earth ends ⇒ Proverbs 24:10-12; Matthew 25:31-46. It is good news to know this now, and to respond.

Satan is called the prince of the power of the air ⇒ Ephesians 2:2; he is **On The Air** all the time for a good reason: nonstop communication is effective... for good and for evil. It is how we are to **manage Christianity**: *relating* it to all we do, go and think. Satan uses communication heavily. Christians, by definition, communicate by **living relationally**. ♥