

AN UNHOLY FEAR OF GOD

Unholy fear causes people to run away from God due to untrust, guilt, fear of punishment, or resistance to God's will. Sin persists in unholy fear with desire to live in one's own strength and resources. Living in sin is the root issue. Transgressions of God's law for living is the fruit of sin. Sin is active unbelief in Jesus and distrust in God's provision. Brokenness is the resulting damage, pain, and separations caused by sin.

Holy fear is reverence for God's authority in which a person draws near to God in love and obedience. Through faith in Jesus new birth in Christ allows for living in God's strength and resources which is the opposite of living in sin.

Perfect love casts out unholy fear.

Satan, the accuser, declares that God is not to be trusted. That God is holding back something good from humanity that can be experienced through our own independence and self-sufficiency. Believing Satan's lie and acting upon it is sin. Not trusting God, and belief that God is holding us back from something good is an unholy fear of God. Revelation 21:8

Satan's accusation and humanity believing it, leads people to run from God. But God designed our very body and soul and spirit to live in the design for love and trust in Him. Without Him we can do nothing of eternal value. God designed humanity to live in perfect trust and love in Him through which we are blessed by His resources, His strength, and His wisdom. John 15:5

Satan's accusation and humanity believing it, leads religious people to believe that God is a punisher and He uses retributive punishment to achieve restoration. Humanity is deceived into thinking that God punishes the innocent in order to restore the guilty and that Christ died to satisfy justice and mercy. But rather, Christ died a sinless death to defeat sin and death, arising with authority to defeat sin in the life of the believer. Romans 8:3,2,1

Humanity is deceived into thinking that God is so offended by our sin that He will torture the unrepentant broken sinner forever in the worst imaginable way. But love casts out fear.

Satan's accusation and humanity believing it, leads religious people to believe that God cannot forgive and restore a person without some payment for the offense against His Holiness and His Justice. But Scripture says that it is the goodness of God that leads a person to repentance. And that God first loved us while we were yet sinners. And that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself and not counting our sins against us. Scripture indicates that God freely forgives without any retribution and calls upon us to do likewise. Jesus forgave without retribution. Ephesians 4:32 2 Cor. 5 Rom. 5

Satan's accusation and humanity believing it, leads religious people to believe that our transgressions are more offensive to God than our sin. But sin is simply living outside God's design for life and outside of relationship with God. The result of this lifestyle of sin leads to lying, stealing, killing, and other transgressions. Sin is the root, and transgression is the fruit. So God is not nearly as concerned about the transgressions as He is about sin. God is declaring a transformation of life brought on by a new birth in Christ. Without being born again and made into a new creation, there is no hope for victory over living a lifestyle of transgressing against the laws of God's design. John 3:3 2 Cor. 5:17-21

The crucifixion of Jesus proves that Satan is a liar. Sinless Jesus willingly gave His physical life to prove that God's character is unflawed. God is love. God does not retaliate. God does not withhold from humanity what is good and what is best. God can be trusted to do what He says and God says that He will restore all things to Himself by defeating the accuser and by removing sin from His creation. Jesus came to take away the sin of the world. John 1:29 Revelation 20-22 Genesis 3:15; 12:3 Satan is cast down to earth because only humanity still believes his lies. Revelation 12

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

In Christ, you are complete, having been circumcised by Christ putting off the body of the flesh, having been buried with Him in baptism and raised to newness of life, having forgiven you of all your trespasses, having cancelled any condemnation against you, and having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

See Colossians 2:9-15

God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful man as an offering for sin. And He condemned sin in the flesh [subdued it and overcame it in the person of His own Son], Romans 8:3b

