

## THE ROOT OF CHARACTER: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

### *The Irreverence of Lightly Esteeming Evil*

**Foundation Statement:** It's irreverent to lightly esteem evil things-Proverbs 8:13

#### **I. To reverence God is to hate evil**

A. Out of reverence and respect for our Father we love what he loves and detests what He detests  
(Proverbs 8:13)

1. Hate – A feeling of intense hostility, to dislike something or somebody intensely often in a way that evokes feelings of anger, have a strong distaste for something
2. It's reverent to hate what evil or hate God hates
  - a. God hates the devil, the curse, and sin
  - b. It's very irreverent towards God to lightly esteem things that God hates
    - 1) EX: It's like a wife you conforms to the likes of her husband out of respect and reverence
3. People who reverence God depart from evil out of respect for Him (Proverbs 16:6)
  - a. God hates it and therefore I don't esteem it lightly and I don't want any part of it
4. Hate can be defined as the strongest form of opposition to something (Js 4:7)
  - a. Resist – To stand against or oppose something; Demonstrates the attitude of one who is fiercely opposed to something and therefore determines he will do everything in his power to resist it, stand against it, defy it's operation
  - b. God doesn't have to purposely release hate on evil
    - 1) He is 180 degrees going in a different than evil
      - a) He is all good and therefore everything about Him is opposed to evil in the strongest way
      - b) He is all blessing and therefore everything about Him is absolutely opposed to the curse
  - c. You don't have to work up hate for wickedness, just develop love for God and all good and you'll be in hate for wickedness
    - 1) You'll be in total opposition to wickedness and that's what it means to hate
5. Romans 12:9
  - a. Abhor – Two Greek Words 1) Away, 2) An intense dislike, an aversion, or a repugnance to something --- Those two words mean – A person who hates something so extremely that he literally backs away from it in disgust
  - b. Evil – Anything that is full of destruction, disaster, harm, or danger
    - 1) This would include the devil, sin, and the curse

- c. Cleave – A permanent connection, to glue or cement together
  - d. Good – Anything that is good, beneficial, or profitable to you
- B. To reverence God I have to be just like my master (Hebrews 1:9)
- 1. Hate (NT-Miseo) – Hatred that can turn violent, a radical, violent, aversion to something, repugnant, disgusting, revolting, repulsive, and nauseating, to hate, to abhor, to find utterly repulsive, it describes a person who has a deep seated animosity, who is antagonistic to something he finds, to be completely objectionable, he loathes the object and rejects it entirely
  - 2. Iniquity – Wickedness
- C. Separate the sin from the sinner then hate the sin and love the sinner (Jn 8:1-11)
- 1. People get out of balance and they release their hate for the sin on the sinner
  - 2. Jesus loathed adultery, he hated it, it disgusted him, and he still does

## II. Acknowledge the seriousness of sin, the curse, and evil

- A. Sin is what put Jesus on the cross
- 1. Sin is what brought the curse into the Earth
    - a. That curse has stolen from, killed, and destroyed people (John 10:10)
  - 2. Sin is what caused the Father to forsake Jesus (Matthew 27:46)
    - a. Forsake – Walking out on someone; leaving someone in a terrible condition; abandoning a person at the worst possible moment; deserting a person the most terrible way, leave helpless, to turn your back on saying I never knew you
  - 3. Sin is what sent Jesus to hell (Isaiah 53:9, Matthew 12:40)
  - 4. Sin is what got his body marred to the point it didn't resemble a man (Isaiah 52:14, 53:10)
- B. He went through all that to redeem me from the curse
- 1. Jesus died for my salvation, my healing, my prosperity, my peace and to tolerate the curse in my life is to devalue what he did on the cross
    - a. The curse is why he went to the cross (1 John 3:8)
    - b. Your job is not to make the redemption manifest, but to take a stand of faith against every part of the curse trying to operate in your life and never, ever, ever tolerate it
    - c. We ought to do everything in our power to take full advantage of all that He provide because in doing so we honor what he did
  - 2. It's extremely irreverent to say it's God's will for people to live with things Jesus went to the cross to redeem them from
- C. There's nothing funny or light about sin, evil, and the curse
- 1. Never ever laugh at sin or tolerate the curse
  - 2. God hates sin because it hurts people

### III. Evil, sin, and disobedience in our lives grieves the heart of God (Ephesians 4:30)

- A. It grieves the heart of God the way unfaithfulness in marriage grieves the heart of a spouse
  - 1. Grieve – LUPE – Denotes a pain or grief that can only be experienced between two people who deeply love each other. Normally the word be used to picture a husband or wife who has discovered his or her mate has been unfaithful.
- B. Using your liberty as an occasion for the flesh is greatly irreverent (Gal 5:13)
  - 1. Don't ever say you'll do it no and repent later
    - a. To do so is to lightly esteem evil and in doing so you will grieve the heart of God
  - 2. When you lightly esteem sin, you devalue the price that Jesus paid for you to be able to be forgiven of that sin
    - a. That sin cost Jesus his life and when you lightly esteem the sin, you lightly esteem the price that was paid for it
      - 1) Sin is a big deal because he cost Jesus his life
      - 2) Somebody had to pay for that occasion in the flesh and that somebody was Jesus
    - b. EX: It's like a parent who works overtime for a whole year to buy their child a car and then their child doesn't value the car by keeping it filthy. They're not only devaluing the car, their devaluing all the work that was done for them to have that car and in doing so they are dishonoring their parent.
  - 3. The blood of Jesus has made light of the power and effect of sin in our lives, but the seriousness of sin and the irreverence of sin is the same as it's always has been
- C. If you allow it to the enemy will take that and throw you right into condemnation, but God is a forgiving God of love and when you repent that thing exists in his heart and mind's eye no more (1 John 1:9, Hebrews 8:12, Isaiah 43:25)
  - 1. We need to have balance here and understand and acknowledge the seriousness of sin, but recognize the amazing cleansing and forgiving love of the Father