

Love is Stronger than Fear

1 John 4:11-19

April 3, 2016

By: Andrew Oates

I. Introduction

What makes some people run to danger and others away? Why do some people take necessary risks to save lives while others concern themselves with preserving their own lives? How does one combat the growing fear that is invading our world, our country, our church?

II. Definitions

_____ - an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat; causes paralysis, flight or isolation (sinful fear).

_____ - deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements for someone or something (godly fear).

_____ - one's ability to do something that is frightening: strength in the face of pain or grief; absence of self.

_____ - an intense feeling of deep affection; a conscious choice of sacrifice and commitment.

_____ - firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something; complete yielding of oneself.

III. Common Responses to Fear:

_____ - surrender your _____ and you will not have to be afraid.

_____ - hide; look out and protect _____ at all costs.

_____ - love someone or something bigger than your _____ and _____ (Matthew 16:25).

IV. Biblical Examples of Love Over Fear:

Jonathan - 1 Samuel 14:1-7

Esther - Esther 4:10-16

Jesus - John 14:28-31

V. So . . . 3 Truths About Love Conquering Our Fear:

1. Love of God is _____ than my _____.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

2. Love of God _____ me to trust God no matter the _____.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. (ESV)

3. Love of God allows God to be greater than myself; brings _____.

Proverbs 18:1

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. (ESV)

VI. Conclusion:

Love leads to trust, trust leads to obedience. Fear only yields anger and hate - Love for God leads to my trusting God and following God in obedience. Fear in my life and of my circumstances only diminishes my capacity to love God and be loved by God. We can only love God because God first loved us through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8).

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The COMMUNITY

1. Do you have any fears? (I.E. snakes, spiders, close places, heights, ect...)
2. What impacted you from this Sunday's worship, sermon, or study?

Into the WORD

Here are some suggested sites in order to dive deeper into God's Word: blueletterbible.org, biblos.com, ccel.org, logos.com, connect.ligonier.org, thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology, and desiringgod.org/articles/all

1. Read 1st John 4:7-21 out loud in your group.
2. How is the Apostle John defining love in this passage?
 for further study: 1st John 3:16; Romans 5:6-9; consider this original song by one of Coastal's music leaders, Brian Briggs: <https://vimeo.com/147263460>
3. How can "perfect love," 1st John 4:18, cast out fear?
 for further study: Romans 8:1; Matthew 11:28-30; Matthew 6:25-34
4. How can we apply 1st John 4:18? In other words, how can you establish the discipline to flee fear and trust God?

The APPLICATION

1. Pastor Andrew defined five different emotions. With which do you struggle the most? Fear, Reverence, Courage, Love, or Trust.
2. The response of a Godly Person, according to Pastor Andrew, is to love something or someone bigger than your life and live the Gospel. How have you exhibited your love to God this week? How have you "lived the Gospel" this Week?
3. The results of God loving us, according to 1st John 4:19, is that we will love one another. How can you specifically redirect God's love for you to others in the community this week?
4. As we love others, John 13:35 tells us that the world will know that we are Christ's disciples. How can you specifically redirect God's love for you to others within the body of Coastal this week so that the community will know that we are developing as authentic followers of Jesus Christ, aka: His disciples?

PRAYER LIST:
