

"For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." John 12:43 KJV



We obey God's Word because we love Him, but family and friends reject us, so we stop to avoid the hassle and heartache it brings. We acquiesce to others and call it making a living, being tactful, or avoiding conflict to avoid persecution, but the reality is we are just afraid of men and love ourselves more than God! *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."* God's Word tells us, *"The fear of man layeth a snare."* The Truth of the Christian life can be summed up thusly: *"Those that live Godly in Christ Jesus SHALL suffer persecution."* If there is no persecution, there's no Godly living. If you obey God's Word, you won't have to *"come out from among [the world] and be...separate."* The world will leave you! Did you ever notice how uttering the name of Jesus suddenly makes some folk uncomfortable? Christ was hated by the Pharisees, because He did no wrong. His righteousness revealed their pretence, destroyed their credibility, and made them liars! They couldn't strut around anymore, self-righteously pretending to be better than others. They secretly plotted His death, because they were afraid of losing control of the people. There was no true love of God among them save for a few that believed secretly for fear of being cast out of the Synagogue. How you live will tell the tale of your love for God. We are to live peaceably separate from all things worldly. Our clothing, our speech, and our actions should adamantly proclaim our love for God over all else! We don't silently walk away when our best Friend is being slandered and mocked! However, if our dress, speech, and actions are just like the world, standing up for Truth will do more to mock Christ than a stadium full of the wicked! *"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."* We expect God to provide for us, but do nothing whatsoever to deserve it! God will chastise you until you obey. *"Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth, but if ye be without chastisement, whereof ALL are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."* Chastisement may be withheld provision, consequences of our sin, or loss of a friend or loved one. God loves you so much He will do what is necessary to reestablish your love and obedience! He does so, because He wants to reward and provide for you; give you *"joy unspeakable and full of glory;"* filled your life with *"peace that passeth all understanding."* But more than that, He wants to walk, talk, and fellowship with you which He cannot do as long as you continue in sin.

Fearing man will lay a snare,
And ruin all who enter there,
Fearing God brings joy and peace,
Pleasures that will never cease! ~CGP

We need to get our eyes off the baubles of ðVanity Fairð lest we find ourselves slopping their swine! We need to rejoin our dear Friend and faithful Companion on the pathway to the ðCelestial City!ð

"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us: If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself." 2 Timothy 2:11-13 KJV