



## Connection Group Questions

November 15, 2020

*Series: The State of our Union with Christ*

*Message: "Fear...Not"*

### **1 John 4:11-18**

*11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

*13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

### **Open**

From the internet:

*"Greed and fear refer to two opposing emotional states theorized as factors causing the unpredictability and volatility of the stock market, and irrational market behavior inconsistent with the efficient-market hypothesis. Greed and fear relate to an old Wall Street saying: "financial markets are driven by two powerful emotions – greed and fear.""*

***Who's winning indoor heart these days- greed, or fear, or God?***

***How can fear be helpful?***

***How, or when, does fear become harmful?***

### **Discuss**

Read 1 John 4:11-18

Fear itself is not the enemy, rather, it is the tool of our enemy, the devil. ***How does the evil one use fear as a weapon against faith and God?***

***How do we know that we live in God, and He lives in us? What is the evidence and effect of our union with Christ?***

***Perfect love drives out fear. How can our union with Christ drive out fear and grow our faith?***

George outlined 5 costs of giving into fear:

**Giving into fear leads to loss of IDENTITY:**

*Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

***Are you the kind of disciple that gets out of the boat and walks on water- why or why not? What are you doing to grow your "faith tank" and not your fear tank?***

**Fear leads to loss of INTIMACY.**

*Psalm 23:4 "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." The angel told Mary "fear not" and that the Lord was with her. This is the beginning of the reversal of the fall and hiding from God.*

***Have you been hiding, or trying to hide areas of your life from God? From a spouse? From friends? What effect does hiding have on our faith and intimacy with God and others?***

**Fear leads to loss of AVAILABILITY to God.**

*John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." When we hide from intimacy with God, we are no longer available to God. Jesus commanded his disciples to go into all the world, making disciples of all nations, teaching them, baptizing them, and that he would be WITH THEM.*

***How do we experience God in greater ways when we actually GO?***

John Ortberg wrote that "fear has created more practical heretics than anything else, even bad theology." ***How is not trusting and obeying God, and giving into fear, a form of "heresy?"***

**Fear leads to loss of DESTINY**

*Psalm 118:6 "The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" In Mark 10 Jesus tells his disciples to not be afraid of him who can kill only the body, but of the one who can kill both body and soul.*

***How does this affirm, and stretch, our faith? How is this actually an encouragement?***

**Fear leads to a loss of JOY**

*Psalm 94:19 "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. Fear and joy cannot coexist."*

***Have you experienced a growing joy by not giving in to fear?***

**Apply**

*30 Days of Gratitude has begun.*

*If you don't have a journal grab one of ours!*

*Each morning write 3 things for which you are grateful.*

*Bonus: Also write 3 goals or aspirations for the day.*

*Each evening, before bed write 3 reflections: what was great about your day, what could have been better, what will you do differently tomorrow?*

*Double Bonus: Top off your day by writing a Thank You Note to send to someone.*