

The Walls We Build that Lead to Hiding and Spying

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. — Proverbs 29: 25

A major question in Scripture is: *Whom will you fear?* That means, *Whom will you need and/or be controlled by?* Will you fear God or will you fear people? The Bible gives three reasons why we people

- (1). We fear people because they can expose and humiliate us.
- (2). We fear people because they can reject, ridicule, or despise us.
- (2). We fear people because they can attack, oppress, or threaten us.

Whether you are afflicted with one or all three reasons, you ultimately have one central problem in life: You see people as more powerful and more significant than God. When you lose perspective on people, people fear in us and we give other people the power and ability to dictate what we feel, think, and do. **Principle:** Until we recognize that the fear of people is a major problem, we will be unable to break free.

I. The sore of shame is caused by the disease of people fear.

Immediately after the sin of Adam and Eve, *“the eyes of both of them were opened, and they they were naked”* (Gen. 3: 7). This is the debut of the fear of other people. Shame is twofold:

- (1). **Sin-shame** is something we bring on ourselves.
- (2). **Victimization-shame** is something done to us.

Everyone experiences sin-shame, but not everyone has this shame intensified by victimization. Shame in our culture is not even discussed. When you begin to realize that the word shame is almost interchangeable with “low self-esteem,” it becomes difficult to find a book that **does not** discuss it. The problem with our culture and the lack of using shame and exalting self-worth is that we really are **not** okay. In and of ourselves, there is nothing to really feel good about. We are, by nature, defective.

II. Shame leads those who fear people into hiding and spying.

In the United States, a common metaphor that people use to describe themselves is a variation on covering shame: **we are people behind walls**. We hide and cover ourselves and we spy on others. Spying doesn’t mean looking in another person’s window (necessarily); it involves living vicariously. In the early 1800s, Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard observed people who hide behind masks. “Do you not know that there comes a midnight hour when everyone has thrown off his mask? Do you believe that life will always let itself be mocked? Do you think you can slip away a little before midnight to avoid this? Or are you not terrified by it? I have seen men in real life who so long deceived others that at last their true nature could not reveal itself; I have seen men who played hide and seek so long that at last in madness they disgustingly obtruded upon others their secret thoughts which hitherto they had proudly concealed.”

III. The only answer is for people to have a solution for the removal of shame.

The answer seems simple: Remember that in Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, through Faith He has covered you with righteous robes. He has removed your shame. This might be the only liberating teaching that the fearful person. (Hebrews 12:2; Romans 4:7-8; II Corinthians 5:21).

- (1). How is the way you live in private different from the way you live in public?
- (2). What are some of the strategies you use to cover ourselves from other people?
- (3). Comment: “The wicked flee when nobody pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”