

I. The fear of the Lord defined-

The word used for “fear” in this verse, and most other verses in the Old Testament dealing with this subject, means “to stand in awe of someone, to reverence, honor and respect.”

The fear of the LORD represents the most elemental and fundamental aspect of a wise life. So, fearing Jehovah includes reverencing, trusting, obeying, serving, and worshiping Him. And when we do this, we learn wisdom. Godly fear is a fear of wounding, offending the heart of God.

It means that we love God so much that we are afraid to offend or oppose Him in any way! When we truly fear the Lord, we will humbly recognize that He is the Creator and we are the creatures. He is the Master and we are the servants. He is the Father and we are the children. **The fear of the Lord is a deep-seated reverence for God that causes men to want to please and obey Him at all costs.**

Oswald Chambers declared, “The remarkable thing about fearing God is that, when you fear God, you fear nothing else; whereas, if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”

II. The fear of the Lord developed-Prov. 15:33

A. The fear of the Lord requires discipline-15:33a

Discipline/instruction = “to discipline, chasten, admonish.” It refers to discipline, chastening, warning, restraint, correction. God’s chastening is always for purposes of instruction, and should not be ignored or resented. **cf. Prov. 1:12; 3:11-12**

“The ‘fear of the LORD’ will bring one into a relationship to God in which He will lay bare things about us that need to be changed. These changes, when made, result in wisdom. In light of who He is, we see who we are and, for those with courage enough to change, we can become increasingly more like Him.” Kitchen

The right kind of fear will keep us from doing wrong thing.

*God dwells in light and holiness,
In splendor and in might;
And godly fear of His great power
Can help us do what’s right. —D. Deut Haan*

B. The fear of the Lord results in *devotion*-15:33b

William Arnot comments that “You must go to humility before honor. This is the law—the law of God. It cannot be changed. It has its analogies in the material creation. Every height has its corresponding depth. As far as the Andes pierce into the sky, so far do the valleys of the Pacific, at their base, go down into the heart of the earth. If the branches of a tree rise high in the air, its roots must penetrate to a corresponding depth in the ground; and the necessity is reciprocal. The higher the branches are, the deeper go the roots; and the deeper the roots are, the higher go the branches. This law pervades the moral administration as well as the higher works of God.”

One commentary observes, “*No wisdom, no fear of God; no fear of God, no wisdom. No knowledge, no discernment; no discernment, no knowledge. A man who fears God must be humble, and as the fear of God leads to wisdom, it may be said that humility leads to the honor and glory of being wise and reckoned among the wise. The maxim in the second part of v. 33 has a general application. “He that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”*”

Merrill Unger gives us the bottom line in all of this: “*One must humble himself to see God as infinitely high and holy, sin as exceedingly sinful and separating from God, and himself as a sinner completely shup up to faith in divine redemptive grace. Then, as he trusts God’s grace alone for salvation, he becomes spiritually regenerated to fear (reverence) the LORD and to be enrolled in wisdom’s school.*”

What motivates you to live your life the way you do?

Can you honestly say that everything you do; you do because you fear the Lord?

FEARING GOD JOYFULLY, HUMBLY! THE CHOICE IS YOURS ALONE TO MAKE!!