**Capitol Hill Baptist Church**
**Core Seminar Basics Track: Fear of Man**
**August 31, 2008**

## *What is the Fear of Man?*

*"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe." (Proverbs 29:25)*

*"Many of the people I've talked to also had an awakening when they saw the controlling power of other people. They awoke to an epidemic of soul called, in biblical language, 'the fear of man.' Although, they were avowed worshippers of the true God, below the surface they feared other people. That is not to say that they were terrified by or afraid of others (although sometimes they were). 'Fear' in the biblical sense is a much broader word. It includes being afraid of someone, but it extends to holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshipping other people, putting your trust in people, or needing people.… However you put it, the fear of man can be summarized this way: We replace God with people. Instead of a biblically guided fear of the Lord, we fear others."—Ed Welch,* When People Are Big and God Is Small

## Introduction: How do we struggle with the fear of man?

*-We fear being physically hurt.*

*-We fear being rejected.*

*-We fear being exposed.*



## 1. Who fears man?

*-I Cor. 10:13*

## 2. Why do we fear man?

*-Past experience*

*-Pride*

*-Needs-based view of people*

*-Wrong view of what we deserve*

## 3. Fruit that fear of man produces in our lives

*-Discontent*

*-Unhealthy dependence*

*-Cynicism*

*-Bitterness*

***What fruit do you see in your own life as a result of giving into the fear of man?**

## 4. What does the world do with the fear of man?

*-How does it describe it?*

*-How does it "cope" with it?*

**5. What does Scripture say about the fear of man?**

*-It originated at the Fall. (Gen. 3:6-7)*

*-It is shortsighted and insufficient. (Luke 12:4-5)*

*-It is a destructive trap. (Prov. 29:25)*

*-It is opposed to love. (I John 4:18)*

*-It minimizes Christ. (Rom. 8:35, 38-39)*

**Examples of those who feared man more than God:**



**6. Is it ever legitimate to fear man and how do we know?**

**Conclusion: We fear man because we do not fear God or we do not fear God enough.**

***Additional Resources:***

Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*

C.J. Mahaney, *Humility*

John Murray, *The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness*

Lou Priolo, *Pleasing People: How not to be an Approval Junkie*

Ed Welch, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest*

**Next Week:** ***What is the fear of God?***

**Course Outline:**

**Week 1: What is the fear of man?**
**Week 2: What is the fear of God?**
**Week 3: How do we fear man? We fear that people will physically hurt us.**
**Week 4: How do we fear man? We fear that people will reject us.**
**Week 5: How do we fear man? We fear that people will expose us.**
**Week 6: Panel Discussion—Living and growing in the fear of the Lord**
**Week 7: A new vision for life: loving God and loving neighbor**