

WHEN PEOPLE ARE BIG & GOD IS SMALL

Study Guide: Chapter 5 - "The World Wants Me to Fear People"

HOW AND WHY WE FEAR OTHERS

Step 1: (23) _____

Step 2: (52) _____

Step 3: (73) _____

1. Does the fear of man need to be learned or does it come naturally since the fall? (73)

2. What Three Examples does the author give of how the world encourages the fear of man? How does the included scripture reference dispel that error?
 - a. _____ (74) Ezekiel 18:20

 - b. _____ (74) Mark 12:29-31

 - c. _____ (75) I Cor 12:26-27

SOME MODERN ASSUMPTIONS

3. Following the French Revolution, a new world view arose emphasizing the individual. What vital link was it missing? (76)

4. This worldview has been called the rise of the what? (76)

5. What does modern “God-talk” usually lack according to 1 Cor 15:3-5? (77)

6. What did Rousseau shift the focus from, and what did he shift it to? (77)

7. What is the only immoral act in a culture that rejects objective truth? (78)

8. Complete the quotation (79) “If our culture is misguided in its understanding of God, then it will be misguided . . .”

9. The Author notes three wrong assumptions that our culture makes about people. What are they and how does the bible show us that these assumptions are inaccurate?
 - a. _____(79) Rom 3:10-12
1 John 1:8

 - b. _____(81) Rom 8:5-6
Prov 12:15

 - c. _____(84) Rom 1:21-23
Psalm 100:3

PSYCHOLOGY: THE CARETAKER OF CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS

10. How does an emphasis on “needs” or “rights” irresistibly lead into a fear of man? (87)
11. How does psychology vainly attempt to solve the problem of the fear of man? (87-88)

THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGY

12. Among many pastors and church leaders, what has been the popular response to what the world has been saying? (88)
13. What is the danger of the phrase, “Jesus meets all our needs” in our cultural context? (89)

THE EMERGING BACKLASH

14. What are people beginning to see about an absorption with neediness and emptiness? (89)
15. Will psychology ever be able to truly solve this problem apart from God and His Truth? How did Paul address a Godless culture in Acts 17:24-31?

Big Idea: While the world may be able to recognize its has a problem, it can never truly solve its problems apart from God and His Truth.