

**Common Enemy #9: Fear of Others**  
**April 10, 2016**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

Introduction

Do you let your fear of others and what they might say overshadow your willingness to obey God? Jesus gave His disciples a warning against putting other people's opinions over God's commands:

"My friends, don't be afraid of people. They can kill you, but after that, there is nothing else they can do. God is the one you must fear. Not only can he take your life, but he can throw you into hell. God is certainly the one you should fear! Five sparrows are sold for just two pennies, but God doesn't forget a one of them. Even the hairs on your head are counted. So don't be afraid! You are worth much more than many sparrows." (Luke 12:4-7 CEV)

Oftentimes we are tempted to push God aside, and we fail to acknowledge Him. We allow Him to be put in second place when compared to everything and everyone...all because of our preoccupation with the opinions of others.

Digging Deeper

1. Why do we let the fear of what other people will think influence our actions?
2. Discuss some ways in which our fear of other people influences our Christian behavior.
3. What does the Bible say about fearing God? Read Proverbs 1:7a and Luke 12:5.
4. Why do we allow our fear of others to overpower our fear of God?
5. Because we are so certain of God's love and care, we tend to take Him for granted and take advantage of Him. Describe a time when you took God's love for granted.
6. How can we claim victory over our fear of others?

Conclusion

Jesus never would have made it to the Cross unless His fear of failing God was greater than His fear of what humans could do. So He trusted God (not just with His body but with His soul) and found victory over this and every enemy as well. What are some steps you can take to put God first in your life?