

Fear and Love Go Together

Instances in Which Both Concepts Are Found in the Same Passage

In the following passages, the concepts of *fear* and *love* occur within two verses of each other (often within the same verse), and they belong to the same context.

It is important to note that, when the fear refers to "fear of God," the fear and love are *always* compatible concepts, going together without conflict.

In only one verse are *fear* and *love* treated as *opposites* - and in that passage, the focus is on "fear of punishment," rather than on "fear of God." (The context of this passage is explained in detail, since there are many false teachers who tear the verse out of context and use it to attack the concept of "fear of God.")

Fearing God and loving God (and his Word) go together; we have an obligation to do both.

Deuteronomy 10:12 - (What does the Lord your God ask of you?) ... to *fear* the Lord your God, ... to *love* him, etc.

Deuteronomy 13:3-4 - (God may test you...) ... to prove whether you *love* him with all your heart and with all your soul ... him you must *fear*.

Psalms 119:119-120 - I *love* your statutes. My flesh trembles in *fear* of you.

Psalms 145:19-20 - He will fulfill the desires of those who *fear* him ... he keeps watch over all who *love* him.

Those who fear God are recipients of his love.

Psalms 33:18 - The Lord's eyes are on those who *fear* him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing *love*.

Psalms 60:4-5 - For those who *fear* you... (God comes to their aid). Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you *love* may be delivered.

Psalms 85:7, 9 - Show us your great *love*, O Lord; grant us your salvation. ... Surely his salvation is near those who *fear* him.

Psalms 86:11, 13 - Make my heart undivided, that I may *fear* your name. (I will praise and glorify you...) ... for great is your *love* toward me.

Psalms 103:11, 13 - As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his *love* toward those who *fear* him. ... Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who *fear* him.

Psalms 103:17 - From everlasting to everlasting, the Lord's *love* is on those who *fear* him.

Psalms 118:4 - Let those who *fear* the Lord say: "His *love* endures forever."

Psalms 119:63-64 - I am a friend of all who *fear* you, ... your *love*, O Lord, fills the earth.

Psalms 147:11 - The Lord takes pleasure in those who *fear* him, those who put their hope in his unfailing *love*.

Fearing God and loving people - both concepts in the same context.

Deuteronomy 10:19-20 - You must *love* those who are aliens (foreigners in your country) ... *fear* the Lord your God and serve him.

1 Peter 2:17 - *Love* the brotherhood (other believers), *fear* God ...

Fear of punishment on the Day of Judgment - incompatible with the presence of God's love within us. (This is a fear that has a different focus.)

1 John 4:18 - There is no *fear* in *love*; but perfect *love* casts out *fear*, because *fear* is related to punishment. He who *fears* has not been made perfect in *love*.

The context of 1 John 4:18:

- God places his love in all who belong to him. That love, when present, will display itself in love for one's "brothers."
- When this visible expression of God's love is present ("perfected") in us, we know that we belong to God; and we have no need to fear that we will receive punishment at the future Day of Justice.
- In contrast, those who claim to belong to God, yet do *not* have this love from God expressing itself through them, are deceived.