

# **When People are Big and God is Small**

## **Application Questions**

### **Introduction Love Tanks with a Leak**

1. How would you explain the idea that “The fear of man can be summarized this way: We replace God with people.”?
2. In what ways do you must notice a tendency in your heart to struggle with a Fear of Man?

### **Chapter 1 People Will See Me**

1. What are some major issues with identifying the key issue many struggle with as “low self-esteem”?
  - a. Why does simply encouraging people to boost their self-esteem fail to offer a helpful solution to the shame they are experiencing?
  - b. How is “low self-esteem” actually best described as a pride problem?

### **Chapter 2 People Will Reject Me**

1. In what way is being a people pleaser directly opposed to being a people lover?
2. Do you think it is true that it would be easier for most people to die for their faith than to live it out on a regular basis? Why do you think this is so?

### **Chapter 3 People Will Physically Hurt Me**

1. What factors and events from your past have likely intensified and influenced your tendency to fear man?

- a. How might recognizing these influences be helpful in rightly responding to this temptation?

#### **Chapter 4 The World Wants Me to Fear People**

1. The author wrote “If you need love (to feel okay about yourself), you will soon be controlled by the one who dispenses love.” Why is this so? Have you ever seen this to be true in your own life?
2. How does the world’s solutions to our supposed “needs” and “rights” actually lead to greater fear of man?

#### **Chapter 5 Know the Fear of the Lord**

1. In what ways should a christian fear God?
2. Do you tend to focus more on God’s “love” or His “Justice”? What is the potential ditch of that tendency?
  - a. In what ways are these actually inseparable?

#### **Chapter 6 Grow in the Fear of the Lord**

1. What practice do you need to put more regularly in place in order to grow in your Fear of the Lord?

2. How would an increased Fear of the Lord in your life impact your actual daily life and current circumstance?
3. Why is a proper Fear of the Lord that puts to death the Fear of Man essential to leadership?

### **Chapter 7 Biblically Examine Your Felt Needs**

1. What is the result of taking desires and turning them into “needs”?
2. Where are you most tempted to turn one of your desires into a need?
3. Are we called to love others because they “need” it? If not, then why ought we love others?

### **Chapter 8 Know Your Real Needs**

1. What are a couple of practical ways that you could begin better imaging God to the world?
2. What does it mean that we as christians are called to be a Royal Priesthood?

### **Chapter 9 Delight in the God Who Fills Us**

1. How does the story of Hosea impact your understanding of the way you are called to love others?

- a. How does this combat the idea in most marriages that they need love or respect from their spouse?
2. Many view the purpose of God's love to be a means by which we feel better about ourselves. Why does this idea actually prohibit someone from being filled with His love at all?

### **Chapter 10 Love Your Enemies and Your Neighbors**

1. How can you love people most when you need them the least?
2. What neighbor or enemy is God calling you to inconveniently love/serve? In what way could you begin pursuing this?

### **Chapter 11 Love Your Brothers and Sisters**

1. What do you see most actively pulling churches apart?
2. How could you contribute to building up our church and community?
3. What should be different about Christian community than all other secular communities?

### **Conclusion: Fear God and Keep His Commandments**

1. What have you learned about the ways that fear of man shows itself and controls people that you didn't before?
2. Where would you start when it comes to helping encourage and counsel someone who you can tell is being controlled by a fear of man?