

Real Christian Living

(First Things)

(June 2, 2019)

- It starts with the fear of God, which brings correct decision making (Psalms 111:10a).
 - ✓ The fear of God is seen most clearly in how we view ourselves and how we walk with others.
 - ✓ A self-assessment: characteristics we will likely see in those who fear the Lord.
 - ✓ Without the fear of God, we drift into disobedience and selfishness (Proverbs 14:12).
 - ✓ Excerpt: *The Fear of the Lord* by John Bevere
 - ✓ Conclusion: The degree to which we fear God will determine how much we follow God's way.

- We are called to put off the character of the world and put on God's character (Ephesians 4:22-24).
 - ✓ (v. 23) "attitude of your mind" (NIV)
 - ✓ Is it possible to change attitudes which have been with us throughout our life?
 - ✓ Only God can be the source of the courage and strength required to put on the attitude and ways of a new man in Christ.

- Here are some of the patterns of life which identify real Christian living: Ephesians 4:25-29 (NLT).
 - ✓ Some teach that the Old Testament is full of commands, but the New Testament is full of grace.
 - ✓ But Jesus said (John 14:15) and again (v. 21).
 - ➔ "Manifest" = to come to us; be near us; give us the strength we need

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“Stop telling lies”

- Is lying a simple up-or-down issue?
 - ✓ Are there gray areas in lying, and how do we judge those behaviors as right or wrong?
 - ✓ Many tend to polarize in one of two extremes:
 - All lying is wrong.
 - Everyone does what is right in his own eyes.
- Can we make a distinction between a spirit of deceit and lies which are not our lifestyle?
 - ✓ A spirit of deceit lies to gain an advantage or to defraud.
 - ✓ Example: Jacob
 - From birth he was slippery, manipulative and knew how to get his way.
 - God brings such persons to a Jabbok crisis where they wrestle with God and their own heart.
 - After he was crippled by God’s dealing, the angel of the lord said... (Genesis 32:28)
 - ✓ Example: David
 - God had to deal with his deception.
 - After one year, God sent Nathan to confront him.
 - Later David wrote Psalm 101:7.
 - “Works” = ongoing practices of deceit
- Jeremiah had an exchange with God.
 - ✓ God is telling Jeremiah what brings blessing (Jeremiah 17:7).
 - ✓ Jeremiah’s response: v. 9.
 - ✓ God’s answer: v. 10.
 - ✓ God will deal with each one as his ongoing deeds deserve.
 - ✓ Some can be corrected gently; some have to be broken and will always walk with a limp.