

Generation Fear

Perfect Love Drives Out Fear

March 25, 2018 / Jeff Gunn

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **1 John 4:13-18, NIV**

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? **Psalm 56:3-4, NIV**

Fears are a _____ part of life in a fallen world. There are dangers all around us, both _____ and _____.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” **Romans 8:14-15, NIV**

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **1 John 4:13-15, NIV**

Sin can twist fear and turn it into our _____. But by the Spirit’s power, we are not _____. We are _____.

¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 John 4:16, NIV

¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. **Psalm 46:1-3, 7, NIV**

⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. **2 Timothy 1:7, NIV**

We live in God, so we live in a _____ and _____.

God lives in us, so he gives us _____.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **1 John 4:10-11, NIV**

¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **1 John 4:17-18, NIV**

We can be _____ in facing our fears because, like Jesus, we know how to _____ our hearts to our _____ love and our hands toward serving _____ and _____.

MEMORY VERSE

In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. **1 John 4:17b-18a, NIV**

My next step: When I am afraid, I will use my pivot to turn my heart to God’s sure love and my hands to his great commands.

What’s your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Group Questions

Generation Fear – Perfect Love Drives Out Fear

Getting Started: What are your plans for Easter this year?

Worship

Read: Isaiah 53

The Holy Spirit inspired Isaiah to write these words around 700 years before Jesus was ever born. Yet these words point very clearly to the events of Holy Week. Take about 1 minute with each verse and discuss how it points to Jesus and his completed payment for our sin.

Back to Sunday:

Read 1 John 4:14-16

In this section John talks about his testimony that Jesus is the Savior of the world and the importance that we know and rely on God's love for us.

How does the activity we did with Isaiah 53 help us to not only know, but also rely on Jesus as our Savior?

Even though we know Jesus is our Savior, we are still going to have things that scare us in the world. One way to combat these fears is to use a process in which we identify fears, validate the truth that causes the fear and yet align our thoughts and feelings with God's Word.

Example: Kate is enjoying her first anniversary at her new job. She loves the work and the pay is the most she has ever made. But she heard rumblings that the company is downsizing. She is starting to lose sleep and the thought of losing her job consumes her thoughts.

How can Kate use the identify, validate and align process to help drive out fear?

Pair up into groups of two or 3. Take 5 minutes with each person to consider things that you are facing that are causing some fear. First, think of at least one troubling circumstance you are facing. Next, use the identify, validate and align process to address your fears.

Love Drives out Fear

Read Psalm 46:1-3, 7

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

Love drives out fear can be understood in two ways. First, Christ's love for us drives out fear. What does this look like in a Christian's life?

Secondly, our love that we have for Christ can help to drive out fear, what does that look like in the life of a Christian?

Read 1 John 4:10-11 and 17-18, Pastor Jeff spoke about making a pivot in lives back to God and his promises. How do you do that in your life?

Take time to discuss impact projects if needed.

Remember that we have special services this week:

Good Friday Worship	7 PM
Easter Worship	9 and 11 AM

Close with Prayer