

The Fear of the Lord

Lack of it in society:

Makes everyone afraid, especially the righteous - Gen 20:11; Isa 59:15

Destroys the foundations of society

Roles and functions of men and women are denied and attacked - Rom 1

Law is whittled away until there is no right or wrong

Education is hijacked to promote godless ideas and causes

The arts are corrupted to the gratification of the basest instincts of the flesh

And religion is vilified, made to represent something hated and despised - or twisted to the honor of things that are no gods

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom - Prov 9:10

It is hatred of evil - Prov 8:13

By it, society thrives and can be more at ease - David, 2 Sam 23:2-4

To the patriarchs, God was known as "the fear of Isaac" - Gen 31:42, 53

Jehoshaphat appoints judges and commands them to let the fear of the Lord be upon them - 2 Chron 19:5-7

The fear of the Lord is "clean, enduring forever" - Ps 19:9

What prompts this fear of the Lord

His power

Manifested in the Creation - Rom 1:18-20

Manifested in His providence - Acts 14:17

Manifested in fulfilled prophecy - Isa 44:7-8

Manifested in miraculous signs - Mt 11:20

His promise of judgment in the end - Ecc 12:14

He made it, He will destroy it - 2 Pet 3:10-12

He will judge the world by His Son - Acts 17:31

How do we come to fear the Lord?

Instruction - Ps 34:11

It is the beginning of knowledge - Prov 1:7

Should begin with parents - Deut 6:1, 7; Prov 22:6, 15

The word of the Lord - Ps 19:8-9

What the fear of the Lord does:

Gives us wisdom - Ps 111:10

Can give us a much better life here - Prov 10:27; 14:27

Determines how we treat others - Gen 42:18

Prepares us to meet Him

Our Lord's delight was in the "fear of the Lord" (Isa 11:3)

Everlasting steadfast love on those who fear him - Ps 103:17

Gives us an inheritance with His saints - 2 Cor 7:1 (context)

Makes us want to persuade others - 2 Cor 5:11

Conclusion:

Ecc 12:13

