

No. 41 **Avoid What Erodes Loyalty (Symposium)**
 -Fear of Man

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

HOW DOES FEAR OF MAN ERODE LOYALTY? (2 min.)

[Read Proverbs 29:25; then isolate the following expressions]

“Is a snare”; fear of rejection or ridicule could cause one to

“shrink back” when a test of loyalty arises (Heb 10:38, 39)

Could even lead to compromising our Christian faith with regard to moral conduct, neutrality, employment that violates Bible principles, or God’s law on blood

Even before compromising, a person who does not fight to overcome this fear will have his attachment to Jehovah progressively weakened

“The one trusting in Jehovah will be protected”; thus, the protection does not lie in one’s natural disposition

Even a person who is shy by nature can prove to be courageous and loyal by trusting in Jehovah

We also have the assurance that even if we suffer for doing the right thing, we will be happy (1Pe 3:14)

HOW TO AVOID FEAR OF MAN (3 min.)

Strengthen your faith in and love for Jehovah (Isa 8:13; Heb 11:27)

Think of situations that could arise; prepare for them and practice how you will meet them (1Pe 3:15)

What if you are timid or have an ongoing tendency toward fear of man?

Peter and Timothy seem to have had such tendencies; Jehovah helped them remain loyal (Mt 26:69-74; Ga 2:11, 12; 2Ti 1:6-8)

Ask Jehovah to “take the fear from your heart” (w99 12/15 23 ¶17)

Be determined to do the right thing even if a measure of fear is present

Work in the ministry with brothers and sisters who manifest strong conviction

Review articles listed under “Shyness” in the *Watch Tower*

Publications Index or under the subject “Emotions . . .” and the subheading “Courage” in the *Research Guide*

In the following dramatization, we rejoin our brothers and sisters who are in hiding in a basement during the great tribulation

Notice the importance of working hard to overcome fear of man

VIDEO (4 min.)

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THIS SYMPOSIUM? (1 min.)

[Comment on the video] Had Kevin addressed his fear of man and accepted assistance to overcome it, he would likely have had the strength to remain loyal during the great tribulation

As demonstrated in the four videos, strengthening our loyalty to Jehovah now is essential to remaining loyal under future tests of faith, including the upcoming great tribulation

How important it is, therefore, to avoid pride, improper entertainment, bad associations, fear of man, or anything that would weaken our attachment to Jehovah!

May every one of us avoid what erodes loyalty and pursue what builds and strengthens our attachment to the God who guards his loyal ones

TO BE COVERED IN 10 MINUTES