

# Moral Fear In A Christian

Moral fear in a Christian can take two extreme directions.

This fear may make us afraid to do what we know we should do, or afraid not to do what we have reason to think people expect us to do.

Real Christian courage lies somewhere between these two extremes.

We can foolishly allow ourselves to be in bondage to the consciences of other human beings.

Our Christian testimony has created a certain expectation in the minds of those who know us.

Rather than jeopardise our standing with them we dutifully act in accordance with their expectation even though we have no inward conviction on the matter.

We are simply afraid to face our public after we have failed to do what we know they expected of us.

**This morality by public pressure is not pure morality at all.**

A true Christian should act from what the Holy Spirit has placed within them with total disregard for the opinions of other human beings, especially those within whom the Holy Spirit is not active.

If a course of action is right, according to the Christian Bible, we should take this path because it is right, not because we are afraid not to take it.

If it is wrong according to the Christian Bible we should avoid such action, though it may lead to losing every friend, property, freedom and even our own life as a consequence.

**Matthew 10:32-39** [NIV] *“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”*

Our commitment, as true disciples of Jesus Christ, is totally to Him and His Words.

The great fault in all this moral fear, linked to the opinions of other human beings, is that it shifts the motivation in life from within to without. From the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and hence Jesus Christ, to our fellow human beings.

If fear, not love and faith, dictates our conduct, and whatever is not of faith is sin in God’s eyes.

**Romans 14:19-23** [NIV] *“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.”*

Sin is not a private matter. [Please download and study our article '*No Sin Is Private*' under subheading '*Sin*']

Everything we do affects others, and we have to think of them constantly, for the Creator God made us interdependent as well as independent.

Those who are strong in faith must, without pride or condescension, treat others with love, patience and self-restraint, but never act against our conviction that is based on the Christian Bible, the very word of the Creator God.

To avoid this pressure from other human beings that makes us act out of moral fear, not what we know is true, we have to do two things.

Through constant prayer stay close to our Creator God.

Remember that prayer is a conversation with a being who loves us beyond any love we can receive from any human being.

Through constant study of the Christian Bible, combined with meditation on what we are studying allowing the Holy Spirit to work within our human spirit to open up the scriptures to us. [**John 16:13**]

After such a lifestyle we can safely ignore the personal expectations of our friends as well as the criticisms of our enemies.

If we continue to walk this way of love and courage with the Holy Spirit, we throw off the bondage of moral fear and experience freedom in Jesus Christ. [**John 8:31-32**]