



**GULF SHORES**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

*SUNDAY MORNING SERMON*

*by Ray Reynolds (May 29, 2016)*

## **TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING**

### ***Fear***

Introduction: We have begun a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? How do these things hinder our Christian walk to the point it becomes toxic? How can we cripple our own spirituality along with those around us? We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them. Today we will talk about fear. There's nothing wrong with having a healthy fear (reverence) of God, but God has not given us the spirit of fear (**II Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:28-39**). What is toxic about fear? Let's study together...

Discussion:

#### ***I. Biblical Principles***

- A. Fear can take away your confidence (**Matthew 6:19-34, Hebrews 13:5-6**).
- B. Fear can take away your perspective (**I John 4:4, Luke 22:31**).
- C. Fear can take away your reality (**Matthew 22:29, Psalm 23:4**).
- D. Fear can take away your spirituality (**Matthew 10:16-42, Lamentations 3:57**).
- E. Fear can take away your understanding (**I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:15**).

#### ***II. Biblical Examples***

- A. Adam & Eve (**Genesis 3:8-10**)
- B. The Nation of Israel (**Isaiah 53**)
- C. Jeremiah (**Lamentations 3:1-24**)
- D. Peter (**Matthew 14:22-33**)
- E. Jesus (**Matthew 26:36-46**)

Conclusion: Consider the parade of the fairy penguins of Australia (**I John 4:18**). What can we learn from them? Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let fear starve your faith! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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