

from the pollution produced by these 'dead works;' and nothing can do this but the blood of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.²⁷
(comment on Heb. 9:14)

It is here made plain that guilt interferes with both loving God and perceiving His love. It is perfect love that "drives out fear."²⁸ The Apostle John shows further that fear carries with it the idea of punishment. In the case of a threatened leader the feared punishment is often the loss of position. Confessing and forsaking sin is the biblical means for overcoming fear that results from guilt.

This principle is also applicable to the person working in a subordinate position. Conscious guilt in this case may cause the person to imagine disapproval on the part of his superior and other colleagues when such disapproval has not been expressed. Again, without the confidence afforded by God's approval the person cannot believe that others approve of him and his work. The only way out is to deal with the sin that has produced the guilty conscience.

There are certain people who have been conditioned by their experiences and habitual thought patterns to be fearful or threatened people. Some of these are represented by the following examples:

a. This is too good to be true!

There are those who feel totally inadequate for the task they are expected to carry out. Many senior pastors are men who began as

²⁷John Brown, An Exposition of Hebrews, (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1961), pp. 403, 404.

²⁸1 John 4:18