



**Filters - Love vs. Fear**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions - April 25, 2021**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Luke 22:44 (NLT)** He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

**1 John 4:18 (NIV)** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

**1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**Romans 8:32 (NLT)** Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

**Matthew 10:28 (NLT)** "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Matthew 10:29-31 (NLT)** What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

**Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)** Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

**1 John 3:1 (NLT)** See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!

**Psalm 27:1 (NLT)** The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

**1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NLT)** David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

**1 John 4:4 (NLT)** But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

**Philippians 1:21 (NLT)** For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

**Joshua 1:9 (NIV)** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you whenever you go.

**Joshua 1:9 (NLT)** This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord you God is with you wherever you go.”

**Joshua 1:9 (The Message)** Haven’t I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don’t be timid; don’t get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take.”

### *Warm Up:*

In this message, Pastor Tom talks a lot about fear. What is the number one thing you’re afraid of? What is something you’re afraid of and don’t know why? What is something you were afraid of but found out it wasn’t scary?

### *Discussion:*

1) In his message, Pastor Tom describes two different types of fear found in scripture:

1. The kind of fear that doesn’t run away, but rather runs into the battle.
2. The severe distress caused by intense concern for coming pain, danger, or evil. The kind that runs away.

How have you experienced these two types of fear in your own life?

2) Read 1 John 4:18.

What stands out most to you? How do you see fear and love connected in this passage? How do you see your unholy trinity of filters connected to fear and God’s holy trinity of filters for you connected to love?

3) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

*Perfect love is when one has such an experience and understanding of the all-encompassing love of God, that it is now incompatible with fear and fear is expelled from the heart.*

What might it look like experience and understand the all-encompassing love of God? Have you ever experienced love like this? What does perfect love mean for our unholy trinity of filters?

4) Pastor Tom discussed the importance of knowing God's *agape* love.

When you think of God do you think of his love for you or do you think of fear and punishment? What do you think has shaped that perspective? How might that perspective of God shape your actions, words, thoughts, relationships, etc.?

5) Quote by John Scott from Pastor Tom:

*We cannot approach him in confidence and love and hide from him in fear at the same time.*

Do you run to God or run from God when you mess up? What are some practices that may help us learn to embrace God's love and let go of our fears?

6) Read 1 John 3:1.

What stands out to you about God's character—His love? What stands out to you about your relationship to God?

7) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

*The distinction between cowardly and brave is not skill. It's a willingness to go into battle, not run away from it because whatever you trust is greater than your fear.*

Who are you afraid of? What are you afraid of? Is it possible you have turned that fear into a function of God because your life revolves around it? How might fear be a barrier to the love God is calling you to?

### ***Next Steps:***

**In the end of his message, Pastor Tom gave us some homework:**

Make 2 columns.

In column 1 write out your fears and answer this question—If my worst fears come true, what would I actually lose.

Then take some time to read through Psalm 27 and 1 John 4:4-21.

Then make Column two and label it Love. How has God shown his love for me? (Start with the cross). Who am I fighting for?

If you've already worked through this exercise take time to talk through what this was like. Pray together as a group that God would help you live a life out of love and not fear.