

Fear of Witnessing

Matthew 10:26–33

Introduction: The war has been won, yet the battle rages on.

1. Do not fear those who oppose the gospel: The Truth will come to light (vv. 26–27).
2. Do not fear the temporal rage of men: Fear instead the eternal wrath of God (v. 28).
3. Do not fear abandonment and shame: Trust your Father who cares (vv. 29 – 31).

Conclusion: Is your life a confession of Jesus or a denial of him? Consider Jesus' encouragement and warning (vv. 32 – 33).

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. What makes you personally most afraid to be a witness for Jesus? How does the passage give us specific encouragements and warnings that speak to those fears? Identify areas of unbelief and ask God to help your unbelief.
2. Consider ways in which you may have discouraged other Christians from boldly witnessing for Jesus. What does repentance look like?
3. What are some simple and practical steps we can take to grow as witnesses of Christ? How might we be an encouragement to one another as we seek to be witnesses for Christ as his body? Share and give thanks for any examples, good practices and experiences of encouragement in the context of mission/witness/outreach.