

A black and white photograph of a person with long hair sitting on a window sill, looking out a window. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The window has a white frame and a latch. The background outside the window is bright and overexposed.

**FEAR GOD**

**Or**

**FEAR MAN**

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2018**

# Overview of this Weekend

- Session 1: What is the Fear of Man?
- Saturday Devotional: Survey of Psalms and Proverbs
- Session 2: What is the Fear of God?
- Session 3 : How do we Fear Man?
- Sunday Devotional: Psalm 139 and Personal Survey
- Session 4: Loving & Fearing, Not Fearing & Needing



# What is the Fear of Man?

## Session 1

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# Domains of Fear

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears addressed 10 major domains:



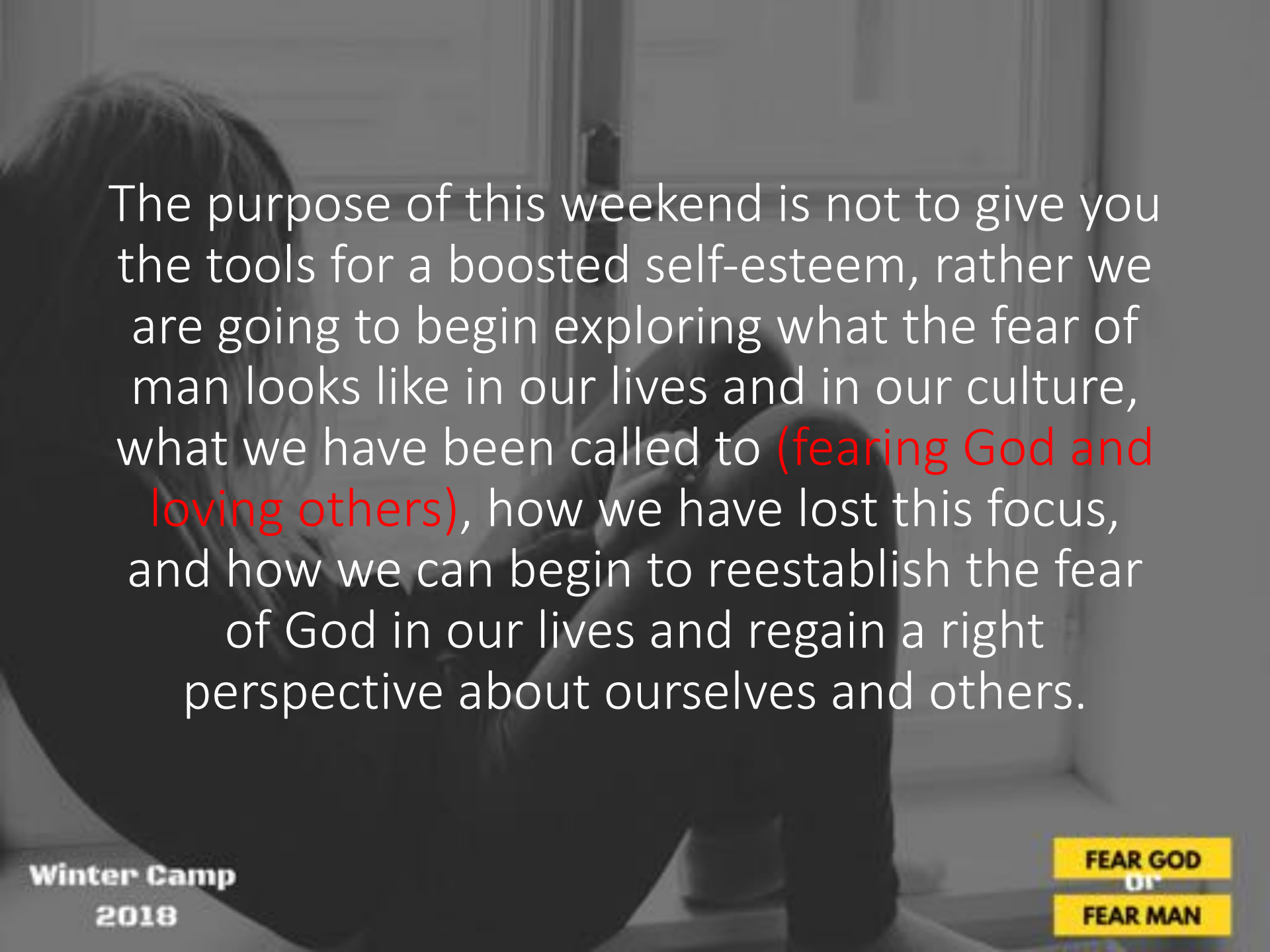


# What is the Fear of Man?

## Session 1

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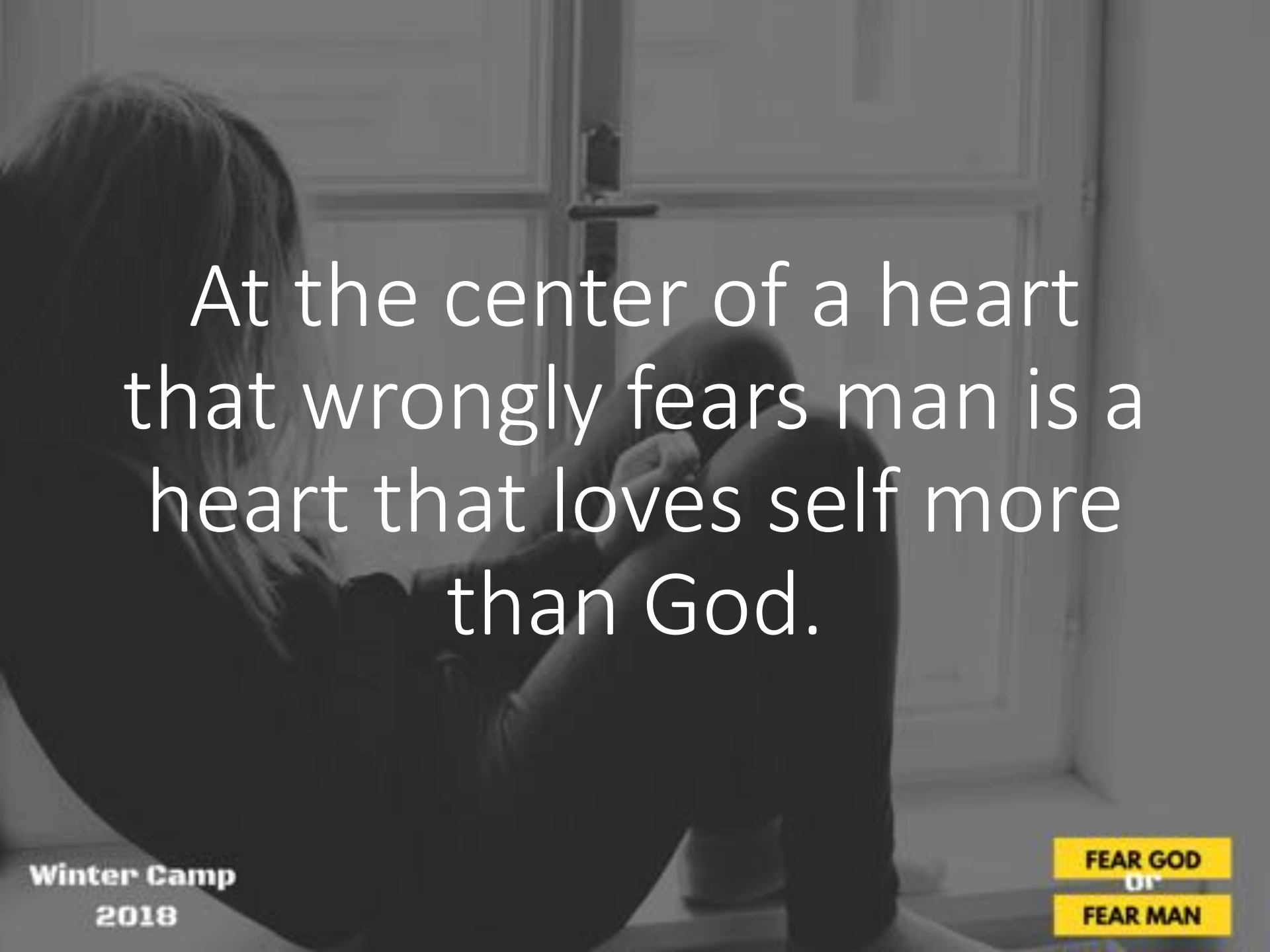


The purpose of this weekend is not to give you the tools for a boosted self-esteem, rather we are going to begin exploring what the fear of man looks like in our lives and in our culture, what we have been called to (**fearing God and loving others**), how we have lost this focus, and how we can begin to reestablish the fear of God in our lives and regain a right perspective about ourselves and others.

# What do we fear?

- Physical Harm
- Rejection
- Exposure



A grayscale photograph of a person sitting on the floor with their head buried in their hands, suggesting a state of despair or fear. The person is positioned in the lower-left foreground, with their back to the camera. The background shows a white door with a handle and a lock. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

At the center of a heart  
that wrongly fears man is a  
heart that loves self more  
than God.

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# Why do we fear?

- Past Experience
- Pride
- Perspective Problem - “Need”

# Why does Scripture say about the fear of man?

- It originated at the FALL
- It is SHORTSIGHTED
- It is a DESTRUCTIVE trap
- It is opposed to LOVE
- It minimizes CHRIST

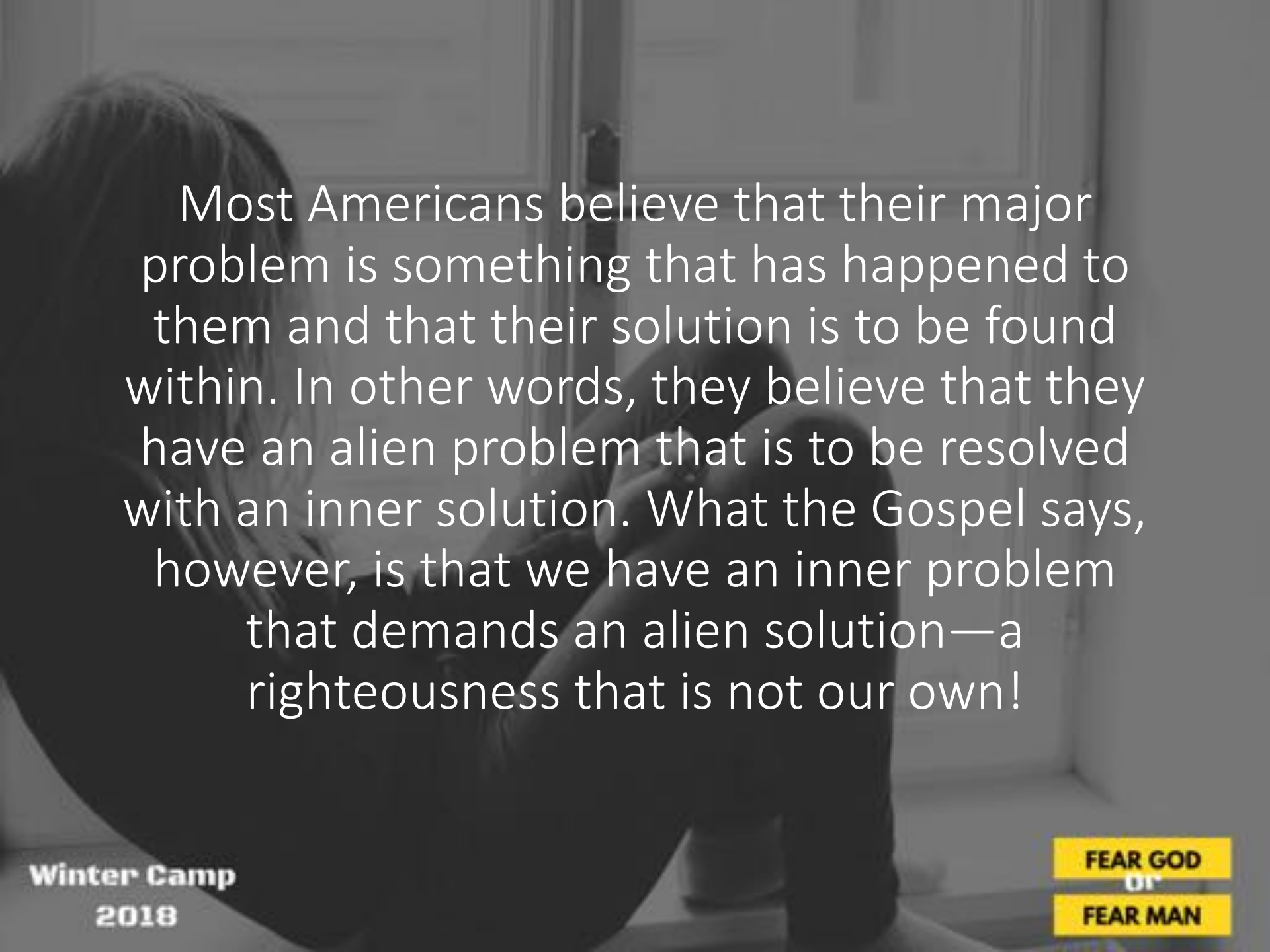
# Scriptural examples of those who feared man more than God.

- Adam (Genesis 3)
- Abraham (Genesis 12:10-13)
- Lot (Genesis 19)
- Moses (Exodus 2:11-17)
- Aaron (Exodus 32:22-24)
- Samson (Judges 14:14-17)
- The Pharisees
- Peter (Gal 2:11-21)

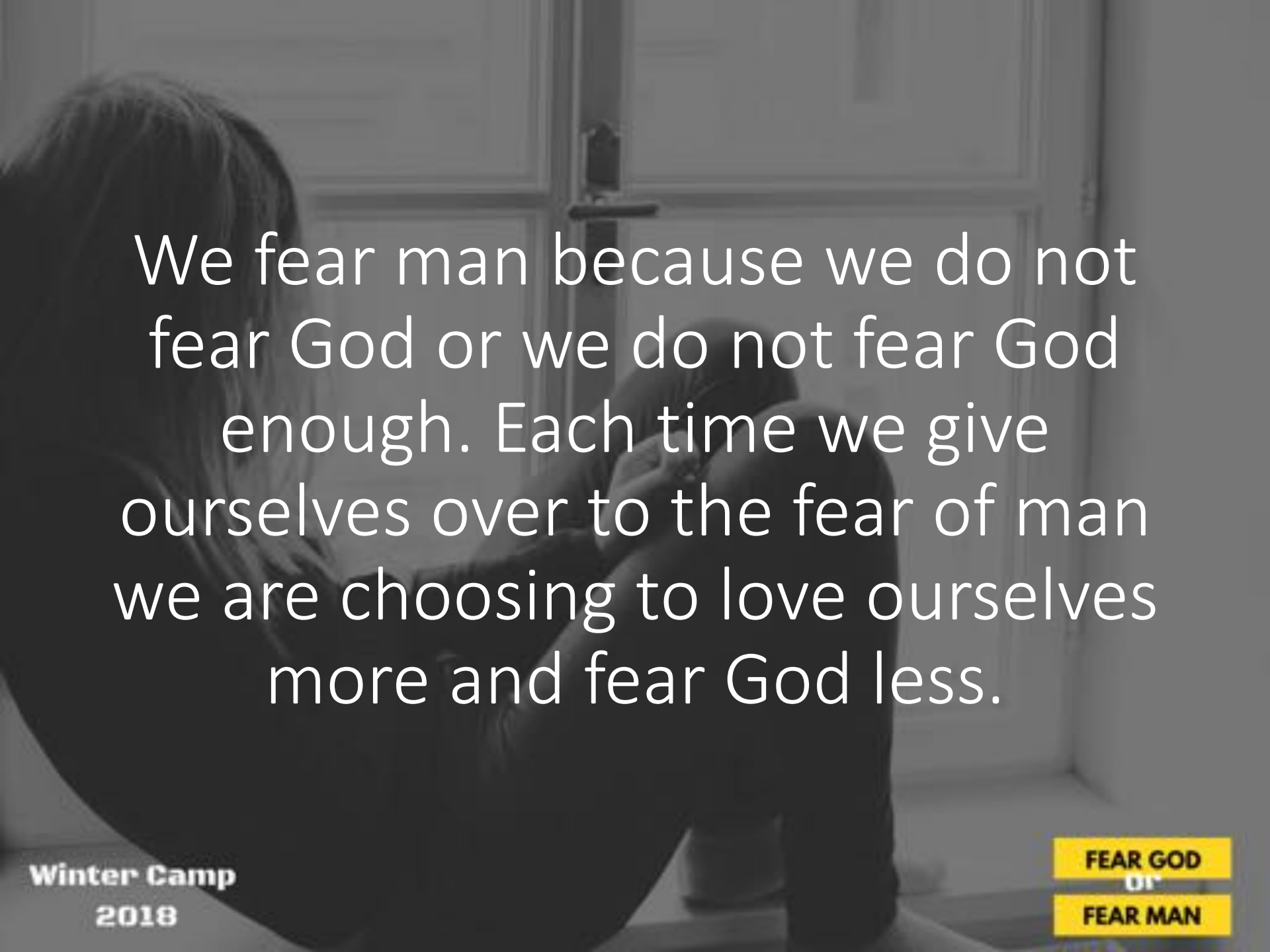


What fruit (thorns) does the fear of man produce in our life?

- Discontent
- Dependency
- Cynicism (suspicious, skeptical)
- Bitterness



Most Americans believe that their major problem is something that has happened to them and that their solution is to be found within. In other words, they believe that they have an alien problem that is to be resolved with an inner solution. What the Gospel says, however, is that we have an inner problem that demands an alien solution—a righteousness that is not our own!



We fear man because we do not  
fear God or we do not fear God  
enough. Each time we give  
ourselves over to the fear of man  
we are choosing to love ourselves  
more and fear God less.

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A person with long hair is sitting on the floor, hunched over with their back to the camera. They are in a dark room, possibly a bathroom, with a white door or cabinet in the background. The lighting is dim, creating a somber and contemplative mood.

The fear of man lays a snare, but  
whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.  
-Proverbs 29:25

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The fear of man lays a **snare**, but  
whoever trusts in the Lord is **safe**.

- The Snare of Satan
  - Deceptive
  - Destructive
- The Safety of the Savior
  - Real
  - Rewarding

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# What is the Fear of God?

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A grayscale photograph of a person kneeling in prayer, with their hands clasped together. The person is seen from the side, with their back to the camera. The background is a plain wall with a door handle visible. The text is overlaid on the image.

Definition:  
Reverent **submission** that  
leads to **obedient**  
trust and worship.

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# Who should fear God?

- Ps 33:8 – Everyone
- Ps 36:1 – The Wicked do Not
- Rom 14:11 – All will

# Why should we fear God?

- God's **Design** - As image bearers of the one true God, we were designed to fear God (Gen 1:26-27)
- God's **Worthy** - He alone can bear the weight of your soul's need to worship (see all the passages from your morning devotional)
- For our own **good** - The fear of the Lord is intimately tied to our own happiness and holiness.

# What happens when we don't fear God?

- **The Worst Exchange** - Paul says in Romans 1:23, "exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles."
- **Alienation from God** – Adam and Eve now deeply fear being exposed by God. They are ashamed in His presence (Gen 3:7-10)
- **Alienation toward each other** - At the Fall, Adam and Eve chose to give up the perfect fear of the Lord. When we give up a proper fear of the Lord, we have no choice but to fear others.



# What does the fear of God look like in action?

- Ps. 22:23—They give praise.
- Ps. 66:16—They listen to truth.
- Ps. 76:8—They are quiet.
- Ps. 86:11—They are teachable and have an undivided heart.
- Ps. 119:63—They follow His precepts.
- Ps. 119:74—They hope in the Word.

# What does the fear of God look like in action?

- Ps. 119:79—They understand His statutes.
- Ps. 119:120—They stand in awe of God's laws.
- Ps. 128:1—They walk in His ways.
- Prov. 3:7—Not being wise in your own eyes (humility)
- Prov. 8:13—Hatred of evil
- Prov. 14:2—Their walk is upright.

# Examples of those in Scripture who feared God...

- Noah – Gen 6:22
- Daniel – Daniel 3:16-18
- Esther – Esther 5:1-8
- Ruth – Ruth 2:11-12
- Rahab – Joshua 2
- Mary – Luke 1:46-55
- Paul
- Peter – Acts 10:9-11:18

# How do we begin to put on the Fear of God?

- Meditate on and believe the gospel and what it accomplishes.
- As we study the character of God, we will be more and more conformed to His character and will rightly fear Him as we ought.
- Renounce pride. It completely distorts reality as it tempts us to make much of ourselves and so very little of the sovereign God.

# Conclusion

To fear God is to reverently submit to Him in such a way that leads to obedience and worship. It is to happily and joyfully obey Him.; To fear God is the beginning of wisdom. God alone can bear the weight of your deepest longings; He alone can receive the worship you were created to give.

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# How do we fear man?

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# Fear of Exposure

- Why do we fear being exposed?
  - Sin produces shame
  - With the entrance of sin and co-existence of shame, the temptation to hide and cover that shame arose as well. The temptation to cover, to hide, to retreat inward, to build paper walls of personal self-protection are now an everyday temptations because of our sin and the corresponding shame.



# Fear of Exposure

- How do we demonstrate our fear of exposure?
  - We build fences.
  - We escape to our idols.
  - We seek to expose others.

# Example of shame and fear of exposure in Scripture...

- Adam and Eve
- David, Bathsheba and Uriah (2 Sam 11, 12:11 & Ps 51)
- Job
- Jesus tells us in Luke 9:26, “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory.”

# Scriptural Solutions to Fear of Exposure

- Live the same in private and public.
- Understand the Presence of God – Ps 139
- Remember the Gospel – Is 53:4-5
- Surround yourself with the church – Heb 3:12-14

# Fear of Rejection

“Closely related to the fear that people will expose us is perhaps the most common reason we are controlled by other people: they can reject, ridicule, or despise us (rejection-fear). They don't invite us to the party. They ignore us. They don't like us. They aren't pleased with us. They withhold the acceptance, love, or significance we want from them. As a result, we feel worthless.”  
– Ed Welch

# How do we manifest fear that others will reject us?


- We fear rejection for who we are...personality, education, giftedness, athletics, etc
- We may have an overwhelming desire for approval.
- We may fish for compliments.
- We may pursue perfectionism.
- We may emphasize material things.
- We may just go along with the crowd.
- We don't share the gospel.
- We don't confront sin.

# How fearing rejection and desiring approval harms us...

- Fear enslaves us to others.
- Fear causes us to be increasingly blind to our own sins.
- Fear makes us more susceptible to being ensnared by flattery and deceit.
- Fear causes us to be more susceptible to other sins.
- Fear can take a physical and psychological toll

# How pride fuels our fear of rejection

- Can cause us to distort our sins and faults, either maximizing or minimizing
- Will tempt us to elicit praise from others
- Can cause us to misapply the praise we receive ...  
“look at how great I am, they said this about me ...”
- Will tempt us to overvalue our strengths and minimize our weaknesses or sins.
- Will tempt us to change our behavior not seek a changed heart.
- Will tempt us to dismiss confrontation over sin or weakness ...“it must just be their opinion.” Pride cannot handle criticism.

A person with long dark hair is sitting on the floor, their back to the camera. They are looking towards a closed white door. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and contemplative mood. The text is overlaid in white on the image.

Response: How does the  
gospel intersect our fear  
of exposure and  
rejection.

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