

2 Kings 17:33

They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods--according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

There is a difference in fearing someone and respecting them.

You may fear your boss because he can fire you, but on the other hand you may not respect him because he is a cheat.

As kids we feared the bully in school because he could beat us up, but we had no respect for him because of the type of person he was.

Many people fear God, like when lightning is happening and the earth is shaking from the sound of thunder.

They fear God when things are going terrible and they know that He is the only one they can turn to (think of 9/11).

But when the thunder and lightening is over and when the dust is cleared and things have calmed down, how quickly they go back to their old ways, serving their old useless gods.

But do we as Christians really fear and respect the Lord? Before you say yes, read this next verse.

† **Lev 25:17 (NLT)** *Show your fear of God by not taking advantage of each other. I, the LORD, am your God.*

As a Christian, have you ever taken advantage of someone?

Maybe as little as keeping that little extra change the store clerk gave you; up to deceiving someone to get something from him or her that you wanted

Sometimes we take advantage of others goodness and even preying upon this gift to get what we want. It could even be a spouse or close friend.

When we do these things we are being covetous and thieves and serve these as our gods.

† *They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods*

So what do we do?

Stop it and *show your fear of God by not taking advantage of each other.*