



## Daily Verse and Comment

### Luke 12:8-12

(8) "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. (9) But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. (10) And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. (11) "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, (12) for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

*New International Version*

The remedy for hypocrisy is reverent fear of [God](#), the fear that conquers all other fears, because the person who truly fears God fears nothing else. The apostle John teaches that the [love](#) of God casts out fear ([1 John 4:18](#), 19). Thus, we can ignore the negative things people say and do. With God standing by us, why should we fear the criticism of others ([Hebrews 13:6](#))? They can do no more than kill the body, but God can destroy both life and body ([Matthew 10:28](#)). Since Christ is the ultimate and eternal Judge, it is logical to put the fear of God ahead of everything else.

Fearing man often results in denying Christ, bringing severe consequences ([Matthew 10:32-33](#)). A Christian can avoid persecution by denying that he is Jesus' disciple, but the eternal cost of doing so is far worse than the persecution that he sought to avoid. The opposite of denying Christ is to confess Him before others, that is, to be a true witness for Him by living God's way. A Christian living any other way is a hypocrite.

There is no shame in suffering for being a Christian. If we suffer for righteousness, we should keep on doing what is right, trusting our lives to our Creator, because He will never fail us ([1 Peter 4:16-19](#)).

— Martin G. Collins

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