



## Clanking Chains: Authority Arrogance: Tyranny Incites Fear & Anger; Both Indicate a Breakdown of the Problem-Solving Devices

Arkes, Hadley. "Separation Anxiety." *National Review*, Oct. 14, 2002, 58-61.

A review of *Separation of Church and State*, by Philip Hamburger (Harvard University Press, 2002), 560 pp.

This prayer is also very pertinent to the present condition of these United States. Because of the attack of Islam we are enduring a major economic downturn, mounting discord among our citizens, partisan loggerheads among the political parties, and a systemic inability to deal with the threat of terrorism because of ill-conceived laws designed to promote diversity rather than protect public safety.

All looks bleak from the human viewpoint. As the Psalmist writes in verse 7, "The Lord does not see, nor does the God of Jacob pay heed." However, Jesus Christ controls history and our prayers to the one true God will be heard and, in His own timing, He will respond. Thus we should not allow "anxious thoughts to multiply within us" a "disposition" of doubt, hopelessness, and despair as did the Israelites in Psalm 94:

**Delitzsch, Franz. *Biblical Commentary on the Psalms*. Vol. 3. Translated by Francis Bolton. In *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968), 13:79:**

The enemies against whom (the Psalm) supplicates the appearing of the God of righteous retribution are ... non-Israelites, who despise the God of Israel and fear not His vengeance; whose barbarous doings, however, call forth, even among the oppressed people themselves, foolish doubts concerning Jahve's omniscient beholding and judicial interposition.

Instead of fear we must allow God to console us to the delight of our souls. This is accomplished through the utilization of the ten problem-solving devices.

The most dynamic are those associated with the sophisticated spiritual life of the adult believer, but these are not effectual nor will they ever be unless the believer becomes skillful in utilizing basic problem-solving devices.

The basic solutions are divided into two areas: (1) those associated with spiritual childhood and (2) those associated with spiritual adolescence.

The problem-solving devices associated with spiritual childhood are: (#1) Rebound; (#2) the Filling of the Holy Spirit; and (#3) the Faith-Rest Drill. Those associated with spiritual adolescence are: (#4) Grace Orientation; and (#5) Doctrinal Orientation. The rite of passage from adolescence to adulthood is #6, a Personal Sense of Destiny.

Whether in spiritual childhood, adolescence, or adulthood, chronic sins cause rebound to be neutralized, the filling of the Holy Spirit to become too spasmodic to be beneficial, and the Faith-Rest Drill to be nonfunctional. These chronic sins involve two that are most common to man: (1) fear and (2) anger.

Those who are fearful do not trust God to do the things He promises to do in His Word, such as divine care, protection, logistics, blessings, and rewards. Those who are angry suffer from over-emphasis on self, opting for emotional reactions to life's exigencies rather than utilization of doctrinal rationales. Those who can't effectively use the basic problem-solving devices associated with spiritual childhood cannot consistently handle their own fear and anger, much less advance to adolescence.



Both fear and anger are indicative of either an inability to trust God or the failure to do so. Fear always finds ways to rationalize how God is not involved in our lives and has no power to take care of details. It is a disposition that reveals uncertainty, skepticism, and misgivings about the veracity of God's promises. Anger always finds ways to rationalize why God cannot manage the circumstances about which we are antagonized. In either case, believers opt for human viewpoint rationales to resolve the issues presented by life.

Those who are trapped by fear and anger are also involved in a complex of emotional and arrogant sins. Consequently, they cannot advance, they can never know the blessings that God has in store for them, and as a result enjoy none of the dynamics of the plan of God.

Since they can't advance spiritually they can't comprehend the problem-solving devices that emerge in spiritual adolescence. They cannot comprehend grace and therefore cannot orient to life from grace mental attitude. Consequently, they cannot use doctrinal orientation to evaluate life since biblical truths are communicated by grace, learned by grace, and executed by grace.

Such a believer often goes through the human mechanics required to hear the Word but he never gets around to using the spiritual mechanics of learning the Word. Since the skills required to actually achieve spiritual advance are never accessed, the believer finds that he remains in the same status quo as when he was saved but without the dynamics he has come to expect from the spiritual life.