



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
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### **FEAR IS EVERYWHERE!**

Last week, some 52 years after the Cuban Missile Crisis took the world to the brink of nuclear war, the presidents of Cuba and America sat together at a conference table in Panama. They hoped it would be one more step toward resumption of normal diplomatic relations, but some in both nations fear what this may lead to. Fear was also a factor in arguments both for and against the recent tentative agreement with Iran that is intended make the world safer from nuclear weapons.

### **WHERE IS LOVE?**

Decades of bellicose words and actions between countries can make it difficult for fear to be set aside. The apostle John tells us perfect love casts out fear. Yet the question remains as to how love can overcome mistrust between peoples having different cultural values and political systems.

1. Can the Christian ethic of love between individuals overcome fear and distrust between nations as well? Why, or why not?
2. How do we harmonize John's mandate to love in today's lesson with his warning not to welcome certain people in 2 John 10, 11?
3. What is the relationship between love and trust?
4. What has been your experience regarding how love and fear interact?
5. Is it possible to fear those of other nations or cultures yet still love them? Why, or why not?

—Charles R. Boatman

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