

Jesus Before Man's Approval

Approval is a vital pillar to the framework of our emotional and mental health and is paramount in understanding and walking in our identity in Christ.

Who are you?

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

We can receive approval from God and man. However, we cannot seek favor from both. As soon as we begin to seek approval of men, we are no longer serving Christ.

The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted. Proverbs 29:25

Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

Fearing God instead of man requires a firm foundation of faith, which is the evidence of things not seen.

Seeking man's approval is desiring the affection of the world at the expense of our identity in Christ.

Manifestations

Constantly playing the comparison game.

Overcommitting

Chameleon

Binge cleaning

Constantly replaying conversations in your head, thinking you could have and should have performed better or said something differently...leaving you wondering what the other person is thinking about you.

A need for the latest, stylish, name brand clothes

Obsessively checking comments on social media posts

Refusing to try something new

One-upmanship

Frequently demeaning yourself

Fruit

Denial of Jesus

Compromised convictions

Quenching the Spirit

Temporary rewards

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. Matthew 6:1-2

“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. Matthew 6:5

“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. Matthew 6:16

”But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.“ Matthew 23:5-7

Split allegiance (straddling the fence)

Exhaustion

We idolize the approval of others because we don't really believe we are approved by God.

”and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.“ Romans 8:8-9a

I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. John 17:23 NLT

What are we to do?

”I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!“ Luke 12:4-5

”And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.“ John 8:29