

ESCAPING THE PEOPLE-PLEASER TRAP

Strengthening Your Relationships – Part 5

October 5, 2014

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) *“Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.”*

WHY TRYING TO PLEASE EVERYONE IS A TRAP...

1. It causes you to miss God’s PURPOSE.

1 Thessalonians 2:4b (NLT) *“Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.”*

2. It keeps you from GROWING in your faith.

John 5:44 (NCV) Jesus said, *“You try to get praise from each other, but you do not try to get the praise that comes from the only God. So how can you believe?”*

3. It leads you to SIN.

Exodus 23:2 (NIV) *“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong!”*

4. It causes HYPOCRISY in your life.

Luke 16:15a (GNT) *“Jesus said to them (Pharisees), ‘You are the ones who make yourselves look right in other people’s sight, but God knows your hearts.’ ”*

2 Corinthians 10:18 (CEV) *“You may brag about yourself, but the only approval that counts is the Lord’s approval.”*

5. It SILENCES your witness.

John 12:42-43 (GNT) *“...Many Jewish authorities believed in Jesus; but because of the Pharisees they did not talk about it openly, so as not to be expelled from the synagogue. ⁴³They loved human approval rather than the approval of God.”*

ANTIDOTES FOR PEOPLE-PLEASERS TO REMEMBER...

1. Even God can’t PLEASE everyone!

Luke 6:26a (ESV) *“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you...”*

2. You don’t need anyone’s APPROVAL to be happy!

John 5:41 (NLT) Jesus said, *“Your approval means nothing to Me.”*

Isaiah 51:12 (NLT) *“I (God) am the One who comforts you! So why are you afraid of mere humans, who wither like the grass and disappear?”*

3. What seems so important now is only TEMPORARY.

1 John 2:17 (GNT) *“The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live forever.”*

Luke 16:15b (GNT) *“Jesus said to them (Pharisees) ‘The things that are considered of great value by people are worth nothing in God’s sight.’ ”*

4. There is only ONE you need to please.

John 5:30b (NCV) Jesus said, *“I don’t try to please Myself, but I only please the One who sent Me.”*

Galatians 1:10 (NLT) *“I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.”*

5. One day you’ll give an ACCOUNT of your life.

Romans 14:12 (NLT) *“Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God.”*

Luke 9:26 (NIV) Jesus said, *“Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”*

6. God SHAPED you to be you.

Romans 12:2 (Phillips) *“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.”*