



## **AVOIDING THE PEOPLE PLEASING TRAP**

May 18 & 19, 2024

### **Proverbs 29:25 (GNT)**

It is a dangerous trap to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you are safe.

### **FIVE TRAPS OF TRYING TO PLEASE OTHERS:**

#### **1. I miss God's purpose for my life.**

##### **1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT)**

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.

#### **2. I quit growing in my faith.**

##### **John 5:44 (NCV)**

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?

##### **Proverbs 29:25 (MSG)**

The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that.

#### **3. I compromise my values for the approval of the crowd.**

##### **Exodus 23:2 (NIV, paraphrased)**

Do not be swayed by the crowd to do the wrong thing because most of the time the crowd is wrong.

##### **1 Samuel 15:24 (MSG)**

Saul gave in and confessed, "I've sinned. I've trampled roughshod over God's Word and your instructions. I cared more about pleasing the people. I let them tell me what to do."

##### **Proverbs 1:10 (TPT)**

When peer pressure compels you to go with the crowd and sinners invite you to join in, you must simply say, "No!"



#### 4. I become the hypocrite I've always despised.

**Luke 16:15a** (TEV)

Jesus said to them, "You are the ones who make yourselves look right in other people's sight, but God knows your hearts."

**2 Corinthians 10:18** (TPT)

So let's be clear. To have the Lord's approval and commendation is of greater value than bragging about oneself.

#### 5. It silences my witness.

**John 7:13** (TPT)

Yet no one was bold enough to speak out publicly on Jesus' behalf for fear of the Jewish leaders.

**John 12:42-43** (TPT)

Yet there were many Jewish leaders who believed in Jesus, but because they feared the Pharisees they kept it secret, so they wouldn't be ostracized by the assembly of the Jews. For they loved the glory that men could give them rather than the glory that came from God!

### HOW TO AVOID THE PEOPLE PLEASING TRAPS

**1**

**Remember, even God can't please everyone!**

**Isaiah 8:21** (GW)

They will pass through the land when they are hard-pressed and hungry. When they are hungry, they will be furious. Then they will look up, cursing their king and God.

**Luke 6:26** (NLT)

What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised false prophets.

**2**

**Realize I don't need anyone's approval to be happy.**

**John 5:41** (TLB)

"Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me..."

**Isaiah 51:12** (NLT)

"I, yes I, am the one who comforts you. So why are you afraid of mere humans, who wither like the grass and disappear?"

**Psalms 27:10** (NLT)

Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.



# 3

**Recognize what is important now is only temporary.**

**1 John 2:17 (TEV)**

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 (TEV)**

For the things that are considered of great value by people are worth nothing in God's sight.

# 4

**Resolve in my heart that I only need to please one person... God Himself!**

**John 5:30 (GNT)**

"I can do nothing on my own authority; I judge only as God tells me, so my judgment is right, because I am not trying to do what I want, but only what he who sent me wants."

**Galatians 1:10 (NLT)**

Obviously, 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

**Remain aware of the fact that one day I'll give an account of my life to God.**

**Romans 14:12 (NLT)**

Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (GW)**

All of us must appear in front of Christ's judgment seat. Then all people will receive what they deserve for the good or evil they have done while living in their bodies.

# 6

**Rejoice that God SHAPed me to be me.**

**Romans 12:2 (Phillips)**

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands

**Spiritual Gifts**

I was given at least one spiritual gift at salvation.

**Heart**

I have a heart for something, some group,  
Or some mission.

**Abilities**

I have natural abilities that I've learned  
throughout life.

**Personality**

I have a unique personality like no one else.

**Experiences**

I have personal experiences that nobody else has.



**Psalm 139:13 (MSG)**

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb.

**Jeremiah 1:5 (MSG)**

"Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: A prophet to the nations—that's what I had in mind for you."

**Ephesians 1:3–6 (MSG)**

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.