

OVERCOMING OUR LONGING
FOR APPROVAL

June 6, 2021
Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

IN THIS SERIES:
May 9: You Can Become Who God Says You Are
May 16: Overcoming Feelings of Inadequacy
May 23: Overcoming Our Need for Control
May 30: Overcoming Our Right to be Offended
June 6: Overcoming Our Longing for Approval

- > DO YOU HAVE A NEED IN YOUR LIFE TO BE LIKED BY OTHER PEOPLE?
- > DOES IT BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU BELIEVE SOMEONE IS UPSET WITH YOU?
- > WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A PEOPLE PLEASER?

FOUR SIGNS/INDICATORS:

- 1) People who long for approval are often _____.
- 2) People who long for approval often _____ so people won’t be upset with them.
- 3) People who long for approval have a _____.
- 4) People who long for approval are often hesitant to _____ in Jesus with others.

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

TWO THINGS WE CAN DO TO OVERCOME OUR LONGING FOR APPROVAL:

- 1) Focus on _____ instead of pleasing people.

John 12:42–43 (NLT) [42] Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn’t admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. [43] For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

Galatians 1:10 (NLT) [10] 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.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT) [4] 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.

LIVING TO PLEASE PEOPLE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

YOU CAN’T PLEASE EVERYONE IN LIFE BUT YOU CAN PLEASE THE ONE WHO MATTERS MOST IN LIFE.

Luke 9:23 (NLT) [23] Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

- 2) _____ and view of you instead of living for the approval of others.

Psalm 139:1–18 (NLT) [1] O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. [2] You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. [3] You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. [4] You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. [5] You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! [7] I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! [8] If I go up to

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heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. [9] If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, [10] even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. [11] I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— [12] but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. [13] You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. [14] Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. [15] You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. [16] You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. [17] **How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!** [18] I can’t even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

GOD’S VIEW OF YOU AFTER YOU BECOME A FOLLOWER OF JESUS:

1) God sees you as a _____ who has the potential for greater things in the future.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) [17] This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) [11] For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

2) God sees you as _____ to have a personal relationship with God.

Romans 3:23–25a (NLT) [23] For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. [24] Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. [25] For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

Ephesians 1:7 (NLT) [7] He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

3) God sees you as an _____ and heir to His blessings.

Romans 8:15–17a (NLT) [15] So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” [16] For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. [17] And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory.

4) God sees you as a _____ who He loves unconditionally.

James 1:17–18 (NLT) [17] Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. [18] He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

Romans 8:38–39 (NLT) [38] And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. [39] No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5) God sees you as a person with _____ as His representative in this world.

Matthew 5:14 (NLT) [14] “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT) [20] So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

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