

**Introduction:**

- In this series we're studying a few great sins of the heart that work directly against living a life of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The sin of people-pleasing doesn't merely consist in our heart's neglect of God, as in preferring some \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- People-pleasing is \_\_\_\_\_ people; putting them in the place of God.
- Like all other creatures, people must be regarded as being \_\_\_\_\_ important than God.

**Isa 2.22** *Stop regarding man  
in whose nostrils is breath,  
for of what account is he?*

**Jer 17.5** *Thus says the Lord:  
"Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
and makes flesh his strength,  
whose heart turns away from the Lord.*

**Psa 118.6, 8-9** *The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.  
What can man do to me?...*  
8 *It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in man.*  
9 *It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.*

**Gal 1.10** *For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

**1 Cor 4.3** *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.*

**Luke 14.26** *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.*

**Eph 6.6** *not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,*

**1 Thess 2.4** *but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.*

**1. Understand the essential nature of the sin of people-pleasing so that you can \_\_\_\_\_ the extremes.**

- **Ways in which we \_\_\_\_\_ try to please people:**

**A. Those who are in authority over us, such as parents, bosses, church leaders, government authorities, etc. must be honored, obeyed, and \_\_\_\_\_ in the things they require of us in the area of authority that God has given them over us.**

**Eph 6.1–2** *Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “**Honor** your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),*

**Eph 5.22** *Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

**Eph 6.5** *Bondservants, **obey** your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,*

**Heb 13.17** ***Obey** your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

**1 Pet 2.13–15a** ***Be subject** for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God,*

**Rom 13.1** *Let every person **be subject** to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God**, and those that exist **have been instituted by God.***

**B. We must lovingly, humbly, and genuinely seek to please people for their \_\_\_\_\_, in order to lead an unbeliever to salvation or a believer to greater edification.**

**1 Cor 9.19–23** *For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.***

**Rom 15.1–3** *We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”*

**C. Just as our neighbors are commanded to love us as themselves, we are commanded to do \_\_\_\_\_ for them.**

**Matt 22.39b** *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

**Rom 12.10** (KJV) *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

**D. We must not be conceited by preferring our own ideas and opinions, and refusing to value or \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are wiser or more experienced than us.**

**Prov 12.15** *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.*

**E. If serious, godly Christians that know us well suspect something wrong or amiss in us, when we can't see it in ourselves, it should cause us to be \_\_\_\_\_ about ourselves.**

**Prov 27.6** *Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

**F. Having a \_\_\_\_\_ for our integrity shouldn't be disregarded; it's a mercy from God for which we should be thankful.**

**Prov 22.1** *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.*

**Eccl 7.1** *A good name is better than precious ointment,*

- Ways in which we should \_\_\_\_\_ try to please people:

**A. We should recognize how sinful, weak, erroneous, and inconsistent people are, so that we don't hold them too \_\_\_\_\_ in our expectations.**

***Psa 8.4a** what is man that you are mindful of him?*

***Matt 26.40–41** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "**So, could you not watch with me one hour?** 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, **but the flesh is weak.**"*

**B. We should recognize how far Adam's sin has caused people to \_\_\_\_\_ from perfection, and how it causes them to oppose those who serve the Lord.**

***1 Cor 4.12b–13** When **reviled**, we bless; when **persecuted**, we endure; 13 when **slandered**, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the **scum** of the world, the **refuse [offscouring]** of all things.*

***Matt 5.10–12** "**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "**Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.** 12 **Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

***1 Pet 4.12–14** Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.** 13 But **rejoice** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also **rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.** 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*

**C. Never try to please someone by committing \_\_\_\_\_ to gain their favor or approval.**

***Gal 1.10** For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

***Acts 5.29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.*

D. We must never let our \_\_\_\_\_ be based on the favor or approval of people.

**1 Cor 4.3–4** *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be **judged by you** or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me.***

E. Being loyal to the truths of God’s Word and obeying His commands must be \_\_\_\_\_ above pleasing or gaining the favor of all the people in the world.

**Rom 1.16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

**Acts 5.29** *But Peter and the apostles answered, “**We must obey God** rather than men.*

Conclusion:

- People-pleasing is idolizing \_\_\_\_\_; putting them in the place of God.
- The sin of people-pleasing happens when we \_\_\_\_\_ someone’s favor and approval to that of the Lord.