



Big Idea

I should live my life for the approval of an audience of one - God. So often, though, I fall prey to the fear of rejection from the people and culture around me. The fear of rejection can seem overwhelming large, but this fear is not from God. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and sound mind. I choose to trade the lie of man's rejection for the truth of what God says about who I am and what His call is on my life. By choosing God's truth I can overcome the 'giant that is rejection'.

- Approval addiction: It's a trap! Being addicted to the approval of others can cause me to give in to others, but with an angry and resentful heart. People addicted to approval are afraid to confront. Proverbs 29:25 states, though, that "fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."
- Rejection Trap #1: Overly Starved: King Saul was paralyzed by the fear of rejection of his people and it led him to reject the things of God. (1 Samuel 15:24) As a leader in my home, work environment and community, it is to my benefit to learn to say 'no'. By standing firm in my convictions, I trade popularity for respect and sin for God's safety.
- Rejection Trap #2: Being Overly Cautious: When I've suffered the sting of rejection over and over, my human nature naturally begins to build walls in order to preserve myself from being hurt, again. A hard heart may keep the rejection at bay, but it also binds me from acceptance from those who truly love me.

Jesus was rejected and despised by men. His priority was to say 'yes' to pleasing God; this required him to be confident in saying 'no' to pleasing people. In all things, I should seek God's counsel, first. Then, I can respond with love and grace. I will remember that I am on assignment from God and it is only His approval that truly matters. "When I believe what God says about me, I no longer have to dance for others!"

Discussion Questions

- Talk about a time that you have been trapped by the fear of man.
- Do you struggle with a need for approval of man or tend to build walls and become overly cautious in trusting others?
- Talk about a time that you sought the approval of man instead of approval of God, how did it impact decisions that you made?
- What area of your life do you need to invite God to shift your priority from approval from man to His?
- As Christians, we are called to model our lives after Jesus. How comfortable are you with trading popularity for God's approval?

Next Steps

- How can we pray for you this week? Write down each person's prayer requests and make it a point to pray for them and text them with an encouraging word at some point this week.
- Remember, you are on assignment from the One True God and His approval is the only approval that matters.

Pray

- Pray that each person will trust that their safety resides in Christ, no matter what people say.
- Ask God to guide you in your motives behind your decision making.
- Pray for each person to walk in boldness and confidence in the Lord and have the strength to say 'no'.

- Pray for the Legacy vision campaign.