

RIGHT IN THE EYE

RIGHT IN THE EYE, PART 3: LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE

You think you want to be like everybody else. But everybody else takes their cues from everybody else. Being like everybody else just makes you average—worried, in debt, bored, and dissatisfied with what you have. If you knew that living like everybody else on the outside would leave you feeling like this on the inside, you would have done what you suspected was right in your heart instead of doing what was right in your own eyes.

BIG IDEA: God does not want you to be like everybody else.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you were a child, who did you want to grow up to be like? What did you admire about that person? Looking back, how realistic was your perception of that person?
2. What are some things you do to make sure people only see your life's highlight reel?
3. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Joshua 23:12–13.*

“But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, then you may be sure that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the Lord your God has given you.
Joshua 23:12-13

4. What are some of the cultural “snares” and “traps” we face today? How do they separate us from what God wants for us?
5. How has the cycle of *disobedience*, *disaster*, and *deliverance* played out in your relationship with God?
6. Where do you see worry, boredom, dysfunction, or fear in your life? How is it connected to a desire to be like everybody else?
7. Chris said that, “Things that capture our attention eventually impact the direction of our lives.” How has this principle worked in your life? What has captured your attention in your past?
8. Chris said, “You have to eventually answer this question: Is God for me? Or is God keeping something from me?” How do you think the average person would answer that question? How would you answer that question during your teenage years? How would you answer that question today?
9. Think about one area of your life in which you need to stop trying to be like everybody else. What is one thing you can do to yield that area to God? What can this group do to support you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

When it comes to whom you want to be like, God wants you to look up at Him, not at the people around you. Have you yielded your heart to the invisible king? For the next seven days, pray the words of the verse that follows out loud. It comes from Psalm 119, written by Israel's future king, who realized that even kings need a King.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

