

Becoming Who God Says You Are

Lesson #4: "LAYING DOWN OUR LONGING FOR APPROVAL"

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Proverbs 29:25

SIGNS WE ARE LONGING FOR APPROVAL:

- 1) We obsess about what others THINK.
- 2) We are often overly SENSITIVE.
- 3) We compromise our VALUES.
- 4) We hesitate sharing our FAITH.
- 5) We have a hard time saying NO.

HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE NEED TO PLEASE?

1. FOCUS ON PLEASING GOD INSTEAD OF PLEASING PEOPLE.

*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. **Galatians 1:10 NLT***

2. LIVE FROM THE APPROVAL OF GOD INSTEAD OF FOR THE APPROVAL OF PEOPLE.

*On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. **1 Thessalonians 2:4***

FIVE (5) THINGS GOD SAYS YOU ARE:

1. You are a NEW CREATION in Christ.

“¹⁶ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

2. You are FORGIVEN and your sins are washed away.

“¹⁷ In Him we have redemption [that is, our deliverance and salvation] through His blood, [which paid the penalty for our sin and resulted in] the forgiveness and complete pardon of our sin, in accordance with the riches of His grace,” Ephesians 1:7 AMP

3. You are God’s MASTERPIECE.

“¹⁰ For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].” Ephesians 2:10 AMP

4. You are Christ’s AMBASSADOR.

“²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

5. You are MORE THAN A CONQUER through Christ.

“³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us]” Romans 8:37 AMP

LET’S TALK IT OVER:

- In what ways are you longing **FOR** the approval of others? How has that affected you?
- What can you do to focus on pleasing God and living **FROM** the approval of God?
- How do you think the way you see yourself differs from **WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE!**

YOU HAVE AN ALTAR EGO...YOU ARE WHO GOD SAYS THAT YOU ARE!