



SOUL SHIFT DISCIPLESHP CLASS
Altar Ego: Becoming Who God Says You Are –
Lesson 4
Elder Stephanie Branch | October 7, 2023

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!