

“When Your Life is Built on Applause”

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church

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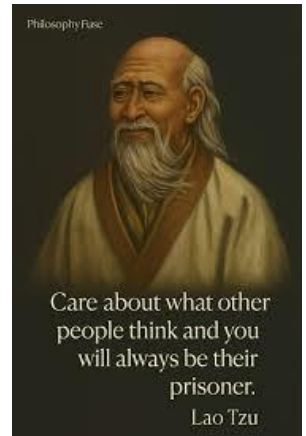
Living for _____ ... accolades, praise, approval, likes... not good. *But why not?*

- Because when the applause stops, when there are less likes, when fishing for compliments yields no results... your self-worth deflates.

Just in case you might be thinking... “I’m not really sure I can relate,” let’s go through some _____:

1. The Social Media Checker
2. The Blue-Collar Job Performer
3. The Overachieving Student
4. The People-Pleasing Employee
5. The Image-Conscious Parent
6. The Complement Fisher
7. Playing the Comparison Game
8. The Retired Reputation Keeper

This is bad because... you are not being your authentic self, you compromise your convictions, you get so tired of trying to keep the balloon full, our self-worth is wrapped up in other peoples’ opinions, you miss opportunities to be used by God, you could resent someone...



Let’s explore what Bible has to teach about this... and seek approval from the only One who is ultimately deserving!

- In Corinth, the people sought approval by aligning themselves with leaders - Paul, Apollos → pride/division

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

1. **VV 2-3...** If you’re controlled by others’ opinions of you, you may _____ be faithful with what God has given you to “KNOW Jesus, GROW in your love for Him, and GO share your story.”
 - a. *The point?* You cannot faithfully steward what God has given you if your decisions are being controlled by what others think of you. (Gal 1:10)
2. **VV 3c-4...** You should examine yourself. (Psa 139:23-24; 2 Cor 13:5). Yet, just know that your judgment may be _____.
 - a. *The point?* A clear conscience is helpful, but not final; only God sees with perfect accuracy. (Heb 4:12-13)

TURN OVER

3. V 5... The apostle Paul's point regarding Jesus' return is both sobering and _____ - _____.

- a. *The point?* When your focus shifts from avoiding failure to pursuing faithfulness, the Christian life becomes fueled by hope instead of fear. (2 Cor 5:10; Mt 25:21; 1 Jn 2:28)

Summary Statement: When your life is built on applause, you lose faithfulness to God. But when your life is anchored in Christ, you find your true worth in Him.

Calls-to-Action... *Moving from Applause to Anchored in Christ*

At the front and near the top of this note sheet, there are eight scenarios. Circle the one you can relate to the most.

- This is your “applause” source. Confess this before the Lord and ask Him why you seek approval from this source. Is it due to some sort of fear? Or that you’re dependent on this source to feel a sense of worth? Something else?

Limit the “like check.” Set a goal to only look at social media twice a day and for a predetermined amount of time.

- Instead of a “like check,” perform a “heart check.” How? Simple. Ask yourself, “Does me looking at social media dictate my mood?” Yes or no. If yes, fast from social media for 7 days and see how the Lord responds.

Write down the name of the person you have the hardest time with saying no to because you desire to please that person at all costs. _____

- Be sensitive to the next opportunity to say no, when it is not appropriate to say yes.

Regarding the GO part of our KNOW / GROW /GO mission – “GO and share your story” about how Jesus saved you...

- Are you afraid of disapproval so you end up not sharing at that moment when you know you should have? If yes, then pray for boldness. Seek out the next opportunity. Then, simply share. God will bless you in response.

Do you fish for compliments? If yes, write down the name of the primary person you fish for compliments from. _____

- For the next seven days, don’t hint, post, or say anything for the sole purpose of receiving affirmation. Pray and thank the Lord that how He feels about you is ultimately all you need.

Anchor your identity in Christ alone by googling “who I am in Christ verses” and looking up all of the bible verses that provide insight into this.

- Choose to believe with childlike faith that these verses are true for you and celebrate by thanking and praising your heavenly Father!

