

# F E A R O F M A N

## Class 4: We fear people will reject us.

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*“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” Isaiah 53:3*

### I. Introduction

*-Where do I find my identity and meaning?*

*-People do reject us.*

### II. How do we manifest fear that other people will reject us?

*-Concerns about personal characteristics*

*-Going fishing ... for compliments*

*-Perfectionism*

*-Going along ... with the crowd*

*-We don't share the gospel.*

*-We don't confront sin.*

*-In our posture towards others*

*-In our speech*

### III. How fearing rejection and craving approval harms us

*-Enslaves us*

*-The love for praise undermines our receiving it*

*-Results in blindness to sin*

*-Susceptibility to being ensnared by flattery*

*-Temptation to other sins*

*-Physical and psychological toll*

#### **IV. How pride fuels our fear of rejection**

*“If the fear of man is the fire that rages within our hearts, then pride is the wood and oxygen that fuels the blaze.”*

*-Pride can cause us to distort our sins and faults.*

*-Pride tempts us to elicit praise.*

*-Pride causes us to misapply the praise and critique we receive.*

*-Pride tempts us to overvalue strengths and minimize weakness.*

*-Pride tempts us to change our behavior not our heart.*

*-Pride tempts us to dismiss confrontation over sin.*

#### **V. So, should I ever seek to please others?**

*-As much as needed for gospel ministry and proclamation*

*-In relation to respecting parents and authorities*

*-In marriage it is right to please your spouse.*

*-It is right to deny yourself for the sake of not offending (Rom 15)*

#### **VI. Fear of rejection in Scripture**

*-Fear of rejection is idolatry. (Romans 1:25)*

*-Temptation for those in authority (Deut 1:17)*

*-Saul's fear of rejection by the people (I Samuel 15:18)*

*-The Jewish Leaders (John 12:42 – 43)*

*“for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”*

*-Peter at Antioch with the Jews (Galatians 2:11 – 12)*

*-Pilate before the crowd (Mark 15:15)*

*“So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified”*

## **VII. Jesus was and is rejected (Is. 53)**

*-Putting our rejection in perspective*

*-Rejected that we might be accepted (Ephesians 2)*

*-He is able to sympathize with our rejections. (Hebrews 4)*

## **Conclusion:**

*-There is a rejection to fear (Matthew 7:21-23)*