

Perhaps the most common reason we are controlled by others is the fear of rejection. Others can ridicule us, despise, us, leave us out of their plans, etc.

What are some examples when you fear rejection? At Work? Home? Church? State?

“Peer Pressure” and the Praise of God

1. We are more concerned about looking stupid than we are about acting sinfully
 - Example of the Pharisees (John 5:44)
 - Example of Jesus (Matthew 22:16)
 - Example of Apostle Paul (Galatians 1:10)

2. Being Concerned for God’s Praise more than man’s praise is not natural
 - a. We must pray for it, and admit our need to other Christians (Ephesians 6:19-20)

 - b. We must learn and RE-learn and RE-learn to fear God, not man
 - i. Remember Peter’s instructions from Jesus
 - ii. Peter’s denial of Jesus—because Peter was afraid of that fearsome servant girl
 - iii. Peter’s later denial of the freedom of the Gentile Christians in Acts 10 ff. The Apostle Paul had to confront the Apostle Peter face to face to call Peter to repentance (Gal 2:13)

People—Our Idol of Choice

1. We worship people because we perceive that they have power to give us something. We think they can bless us in ways that God can: with esteem, value, love, admiration, acceptance, respect, etc. Through idols we both oppose God and avoid Him. **But the whole strategy backfires.** We create our own idols, but they soon begin to rule us.

2. To discover where you fear people rather than God, Ask yourself things like...
 - a. Do I get tired of feeling like I always give to others but none gives to me?
 - b. Do I blame others? Do I change the subject of a conversation?
 - c. Do I need others to notice my outfit, appearance?
 - d. Do I focus all my energy on other people and problems?

 - e. Do I have to be the best mother, grandmother, employee, Christian, (fill in the blank) that ever walked the planet?

3. Toward the end of his life, the Apostle Peter could say in faith and reveal to the church God’s will for us in how to reject fear: Don’t fear people; fear the Lord! (1 Peter 3:13-15)