

**Introduction:**

- The sin of people-pleasing is the sin of \_\_\_\_\_ people; putting them in the place of God by preferring their favor and approval more than God's.
- People must be regarded as being \_\_\_\_\_ important than God.

**Isa 2.22** *Stop regarding man  
in whose nostrils is breath,  
for of what account is he?*

**Gal 1.10** *For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

**1. Understand the essential nature of the sin of people-pleasing so that you can avoid the extremes.**

- Ways in which we \_\_\_\_\_ try to please people:

**A. Those who are in authority over us, such as parents, bosses, church leaders, government authorities, etc. must be honored, obeyed, and pleased in the things they require of us in the area of authority that God has given them over us.**

**Rom 13.1** *Let every person **be subject** to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God**, and those that exist **have been instituted by God**.*

**B. We must lovingly, humbly, and genuinely seek to please people for their good, in order to lead an unbeliever to salvation or a believer to greater edification.**

**1 Cor 9.12b–23** *I have become all things to all people, **that by all means I might save some**. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its  **blessings**.*

**C. Just as our neighbors are commanded to love us as themselves, we are commanded to do the same for them.**

**Matt 22.39b** *You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.*

**D. We must not be conceited by preferring our own ideas and opinions, and refusing to value or listen to those who are wiser or more experienced than us.**

**Prov 12.15** *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,  
but a wise man listens to advice.*

**E. If serious, godly Christians that know us well suspect something wrong or amiss in us, when we can't see it in ourselves, it should cause us to be concerned about ourselves.**

**Prov 27.6** *Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

**F. Having a good reputation for our integrity shouldn't be disregarded; it's a mercy from God for which we should be thankful.**

**Prov 22.1** *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.*

• **Ways in which we should \_\_\_\_\_ try to please people:**

**A. We should recognize how sinful, weak, erroneous, and inconsistent people are, so that we don't hold them too highly in our expectations.**

**Psa 8.4a** *what is man that you are mindful of him?*

**B. We should recognize how far Adam's sin has caused people to fall from perfection, and how it causes them to oppose those who serve the Lord.**

**1 Cor 4.12b–13** *When **reviled**, we bless; when **persecuted**, we endure; 13 when **slandered**, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the **scum** of the world, the **refuse [offscouring]** of all things.*

**C. Never try to please someone by committing sin to gain their favor or approval.**

**Acts 5.29** *But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God** rather than men.*

**D. We must never let our happiness be based on the favor or approval of people.**

**1 Cor 4.3–4** *But with me it is **a very small thing** that I should be **judged by you** or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me.***

**E. Being loyal to the truths of God's Word and obeying His commands must be preferred above pleasing or gaining the favor of all the people in the world.**

**Acts 5.29** *But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God** rather than men.*

F. God's grace and favor must be \_\_\_\_\_ to satisfy our heart.

**Psa 63.3** *Because **your steadfast love is better than life**,  
my lips will praise you.*

**Psa 30.5a** (KJV) *For his anger endureth but a moment; **in his favour is life.***

**2 Cor 5.9** (KJV) *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may **be accepted of him.***

**Rom 8.31–35** *What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, **how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?** 33 **Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.** 34 **Who is to condemn?** Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?***

**Rom 8.38–39** *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Heb 13.5b–6** *For he has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"*  
6 So we can confidently say,  
"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
**what can man do to me?"**

G. We must believe Jesus' prophecy that the world will \_\_\_\_\_ us.

**John 15.18–19** *"If the world hates you, know that **it has hated me before it hated you.***  
19 *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.***

**Acts 5.41** *Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were **counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.***

**1 Pet 2.21–23** *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued **entrusting himself to him who judges justly.***

**Luke 6.26** *"**Woe to you, when all people speak well of you,** for so their fathers did to the false prophets.*

2. Remember that its only \_\_\_\_\_ judgment of you that matters, and that your life and death and eternal destiny depend solely on Him.

A. If God's approval is enough for you, then lacking the approval of people will hardly be \_\_\_\_\_ by you.

B. If God alone is our supreme judge, then He's the only one we should \_\_\_\_\_.

***Rom 14.4*** *Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

C. God is the one who will pass the \_\_\_\_\_ sentence, and there's no one who can overturn His judgment.

***Rom 8.33–34*** *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is **interceding for us.***

***Isa 5.19b–21*** *Let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!"*

20 ***Woe to those who call evil good and good evil,***

*who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter!*

21 *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,  
and shrewd in their own sight!*

***Isa 40.6, 8*** *All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field...*

8 *The grass withers, the flower fades,  
**but the word of our God will stand forever.***

***Rom 2.5b*** *...the day of wrath when **God's righteous judgment** will be revealed.*

***John 12.48*** *The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; **the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.***

D. Only God has the power to save us or destroy us, to make us eternally \_\_\_\_\_ or eternally miserable.

**Jas 4.12a** *There is **only one** lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.*

**Matt 25.34** *Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘**Come, you who are blessed** by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

**Matt 25.41** *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘**Depart from me, you cursed**, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

**Matt 25.46** *And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life**.”*

**Rev 1.17b–18** *“**Fear not**, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and **I have the keys of Death and Hades**.*

**Rom 8.33–34** *Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

#### Conclusion:

- The sin of people-pleasing is the sin of putting people in the place of God by preferring their favor and approval \_\_\_\_\_ than God’s.