

Proverbs 29:25 "Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety." (NLT)

THE DANGER OF PEOPLE PLEASING

1. It causes me to miss God's PURPOSE for me.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 "For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts." (NLT)

2. It keeps me from GROWING in my faith.

John 5:41-44 "⁴¹ Your approval means nothing to me, ⁴² because I know you don't have God's love within you. ⁴³ For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. ⁴⁴ No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God." (NLT)

3. It leads me to SIN.

1 Samuel 15:24 "Then Saul admitted to Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded." (NLT)

4. It causes HYPOCRISY in my life.

Luke 16:14-15 "¹⁴ The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at Him. ¹⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God." (NLT)

5. It affects the ETERNAL DESTINIES of others.

John 12:42-43 “⁴² Many people did believe in Him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn’t admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. ⁴³ For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.” (NLT)

HOW TO OVERCOME PEOPLE PANIC

1. Realize EVEN GOD can’t please everyone!

Exodus 16:3 “If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we say around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.” (NLT)

2. Recognize I don’t need anyone’s approval TO BE HAPPY.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 “⁵ This is what the Lord says: “Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their heads away from the Lord. ⁶ They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land. ⁷ But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. ⁸ They are like trees planted along the riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.” (NLT)

3. Remind myself what seems important now is only TEMPORARY.

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” (NLT)

4. Remember I only have to please ONE PERSON—The LORD!

Matthew 10:28-31 “²⁸ Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ What is the price of a sparrow—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. ³⁰ And the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.” (NLT)

Galatians 1:10 “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.” (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE

Psalms 56:1-4 “¹ O God, have mercy on me, for people are hounding me. My foes attack me all day long. ² I am constantly hounded by those who slander me, and many are boldly attacking me. ³ **But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.** ⁴ I praise God for what He has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?” (NLT)