

PEOPLE-PLEASERS || CONVERSATION GUIDE

Dr. Derwin L. Gray

01/10/201`

Sermon Recap:

As a church family, we're continuing our Beneath the Surface sermon series, unpacking the struggles and idols we often hold but don't reveal to others. This week, Pastor Derwin talks about people-pleasing. In the life and writings of the apostle Paul, we see what it looks like to revere God alone, not seeking to please mere humans for the sake of their approval. While we're called to love our neighbors compassionately, it is dishonoring to God when we place our desire to be liked by others over our desire to walk in accordance with Him. When we place our time, energy, and satisfaction in other's reactions to us, we become worn out and tired. Only when we fully rest in Christ can we experience unconditional acceptance and love. Remember that we love others better when we don't put them on a pedestal or place them above God in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

Upward

- Read Galatians 1:10. In this verse, we're reminded that we cannot simultaneously revere God and man. Why do you think this is?
- There is only one place our hearts can be satisfied, healed, and protected: God. Discuss the ways you've seen this to be true in your life.

Inward

- Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. When our identity is in Christ, we care less about how others perceive us or the things they may say about us. Who does God say you are? How does that make you feel about yourself? (see Psalm 139:14; John 1:12; Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Recall a time or situation where you were drawn to people-please. In retrospect, how did that situation make you feel?
- How can you partner with the Holy Spirit to move beyond people-pleasing?

Outward

- We can regard people's feelings and circumstances with compassion without people-pleasing. What can this look like in your own life?

Prayer:

Father, may we desire to please You and follow Your will above all else. Teach us to put people in their rightful place and to love them correctly without people-pleasing. Remind us that we are only met with unconditional love and approval in Your presence because of the cross. Help us to revere you and love you more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Soul Tattoo:

REST in Christ.