My Longing For Approval
Altar Ego #4

Pastor Ken Ritz * Sept 15, 2013 * New Life Vineyard Church

REVIEW

Altar: the place where you make a sacrifice, or lay down something before God.
Ego: what we believe (think) about ourselves.

1. We will lay down our feelings of inadequacy.
2. We will lay down our need for control.
3. We will lay down our right to be offended.
4. We will lay down our longing for approval

SIGNS YOU ARE LONGING FOR APPROVAL

_____ You Worry About What Others Think.
_____ You Are Overly Sensitive.
_____ You Compromise Your Values.
_____ You Hesitate Sharing Your Faith.
_____ You Have A Hard Time Saying No.

Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.
Proverbs 29:25

HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE DISEASE TO PLEASE?

1) Focus On Pleasing _____ Instead Of Pleasing _____.

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.
Galatians 1:10 NLT

2) Live From The Approval Of _____
Instead Of For The Approval Of _____

…We speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.
1 Thessalonians 2:4

WHO DOES GOD SAY YOU ARE?

- You are a new creation in Christ. 2 Cor. 5:17
- You are forgiven and your sins are washed away. Eph. 1:7, Ps 51:7
- You are more than a conqueror through Christ. Rom. 8:37
- You are God's masterpiece. Eph. 2:10 NLT
- You are the light of this world. Matt. 5:14
- You are filled with the same spirit that raised Christ. Rom. 8:11
- You are a joint heir with Christ. Rom. 8:17
- You are Christ's ambassador. 2 Cor. 5:20
- You are the righteousness of God in Christ. 2 Cor. 5:21
- You are greatly loved by God. Rom. 1:7, 8:38-39

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship.
Romans 12:1

For Discussion This Week

- In what ways are you longing for the approval of others? How has that affected you?
- What steps can you take to focus more on pleasing God and living from the approval of God?
- How do you think the way you see yourself differs from who God says you are?

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*