

THE FEAR OF REJECTION

The big question: "What do people _____ of me?"

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

HOW THE FEAR OF REJECTION BECOMES A TRAP

- Causes us to conform our lifestyle and our values
- Keeps us from telling the whole truth
- Prevents giving and receiving love
- Leads to isolation and loneliness
- Moves us towards unhappiness
- Silences our sharing about Jesus
- Keeps us from spiritual maturity

HOW TO OVERCOME FEARING THE REJECTION OF OTHERS

1. Face the fact that _____ will let you down.

The Lord says, "I am the one who comforts you. So why should you be afraid of people, who die?" Isaiah 51:12a (NCV)

"Do you think I am trying to make people accept me? No, God is the One I am trying to please. Am I trying to please people? If I still wanted to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10 (NCV)

An important truth:

An ironic truth:

"Don't be afraid of people. They can kill you, but they cannot harm your soul. Instead, you should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell." Matthew 10:28 (CEV)

2. Focus on how _____ sees you.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)

3. Fall back on God's _____ love.

"This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God." 1 John 4:10 (The Message)

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
Hebrews 4:13

"When we live to please an _____ of one, God's love _____ everyone else out and we are totally accepted by Him."

Footnote:

* This sermon was adapted from Doug Fields, *Freedom from Your Fears*, "Overcoming the Fear of Rejection"