

## 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”