

SOHL
WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS



"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"

People pleasers

March 12, 2018

GALATIANS 1:10 NKJV – (10) For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

We all crave acceptance by others. Babies are socialized by learning to read the cues from those they want to please and adjusting their behaviors accordingly. However, when we seek most of our validation and self-worth from the opinions of other people, we are on the wrong path. Popular opinion changes like the breeze, and when we place too much importance on it, we are setting ourselves up for an endless string of disappointments. As long as we pursue popularity as a means to happiness, we are flirting with idolatry. When we find our personal worth in anything or anyone besides God, we are creating an idol. An idol is whatever or whomever we use to meet deep, heartfelt needs that only God can meet.

The desire to be popular is more than merely wanting others to think well of our character—we should desire to have a good testimony in the world (**Philippians 2:15**). A focus on popularity is an obsession with “Self.” The craving for popularity is part of the “**pride of life**” mentioned in **1 John 2:16**. It feels good to the ego to consider ourselves popular, and we tend to bask in that feeling rather than deal honestly with ourselves about our own weaknesses. This leads to **pride**. Pride inflates our view of our own importance and blinds us to our sins and failings (**Proverbs 16:18; Romans 12:3**). Even when the choice to please others does not involve open disobedience to God, pride is always at the heart of the desire for popularity. And God hates pride (**Proverbs 8:13; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5**).

Teachers or preachers who become intoxicated with their own popularity are at risk. Unchecked, a desire to be popular can lead them to become men-pleasers, teach heresies (**2 Peter 2:1**), and design their ministries to please the most people (**2 Timothy 4:3**) rather than remain true to the “whole counsel of God” (**Acts 20:27**).

Popularity is an elusive god that many have chased to their own destruction.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2:52

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Avoid popularity if you would have peace.