

VII. Jesus was and is rejected (Is. 53)

-Putting our rejection in perspective

-Rejected that we might be accepted (Ephesians 2)

-He is able to sympathize with our rejections. (Hebrews 4)

Conclusion:

-There is a rejection to fear (Matthew 7:21-23)

F E A R O F M A N

Class 4: We fear people will reject us.



“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” Isaiah 53:3

I. Introduction

-Where do I find my identity and meaning?

-People do reject us.

II. How do we manifest fear that other people will reject us?

-Concerns about personal characteristics

-Going fishing ... for compliments

-Perfectionism

-Going along ... with the crowd

-We don't share the gospel.

-We don't confront sin.

-In our posture towards others

-In our speech

III. How fearing rejection and craving approval harms us

- Enslaves us
- The love for praise undermines our receiving it
- Results in blindness to sin
- Susceptibility to being ensnared by flattery
- Temptation to other sins
- Physical and psychological toll

IV. How pride fuels our fear of rejection

“If the fear of man is the fire that rages within our hearts, then pride is the wood and oxygen that fuels the blaze.”

- Pride can cause us to distort our sins and faults.
- Pride tempts us to elicit praise.
- Pride causes us to misapply the praise and critique we receive.
- Pride tempts us to overvalue strengths and minimize weakness.
- Pride tempts us to change our behavior not our heart.
- Pride tempts us to dismiss confrontation over sin.

V. So, should I ever seek to please others?

- As much as needed for gospel ministry and proclamation
- In relation to respecting parents and authorities

-In marriage it is right to please your spouse.

-It is right to deny yourself for the sake of not offending (Rom 15)

VI. Fear of rejection in Scripture

-Fear of rejection is idolatry. (Romans 1:25)

-Temptation for those in authority (Deut 1:17)

-Saul’s fear of rejection by the people (1 Samuel 15:18)

*-The Jewish Leaders (John 12:42 – 43)
“for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”*

-Peter at Antioch with the Jews (Galatians 2:11 – 12)

*-Pilate before the crowd (Mark 15:15)
“So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified”*