



Burn the Ships

Pleasing Who?

WEEK FOUR

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We experience true freedom and fulfillment when we completely trust in Jesus as our Savior and wholeheartedly commit to following Jesus as Lord.

We all have a need to belong.

Our need to belong can push us to extremes.

- **We are tempted to compromise our relationship with God and our integrity.**
- **We go to extremes to please people because we seek ultimate approval.**
- **We seek people's approval because we are afraid of not having God's approval.**

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Proverbs 29:25 (NIV)

⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:8-10

- **Living for the approval of people is a snare.**
- **Living from God's approval—as demonstrated in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—is liberating and fulfilling.**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

I will live from my identity in Christ and stop living for the approval of others.

People pleasers fear rejection.

In Jesus, I'm accepted into God's family.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:14-17 (NIV)

People pleasers fear exposure.

In Jesus, I'm able to embrace my weaknesses and confess my sins.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Romans 8:26 (NIV)

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

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Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16 (NIV)

People pleasers fear the controlling expectations of others.

In Jesus, I'm able to acknowledge my limitations.

In Jesus, I am approved and loved.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:28-39



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

In this world, it is easy to find ourselves seeking the approval of others. Whether we are trying to impress our parents at a young or not-so-young age, trying to impress our first crush, trying to get hired by exaggerating a bit or win the approval of people in our lives who seem to be in a higher station, it is easy to fall into the trap of being a people pleaser.

But, if we are honest, where does that get us? It often leads us toward being dishonest and doing things that are outside of God's design.

For those of us in Christ, there is another way. There is only one who is worthy of our efforts. There is only one who loves us regardless because we are His.

When you feel you need to please others remember whose approval eternally matters and remember that in Jesus you are approved and loved.

TALK IT OVER:

What is something foolish or out of character you have done to try to gain the approval of others? Why do you think you did that?

How does it feel knowing that, for those of us in Christ Jesus, there is nothing that can separate us from His approval?

What areas of your life do you need to burn the ship on people-pleasing?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1: Isaiah 51:12; Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 2: Psalm 37:3-4; 1 Peter 5:6-7

Day 3: Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12

Day 4: Jeremiah 7:21-24; Mark 12:28-34

Day 5: Romans 8:1-8

Day 6: Galatians 1:1-10