

Why Do We Care So Much?

The People Pleasing Trap - Part 1

January 4, 2026

“The fear of mankind is **a snare**, but the one who trusts in the Lord is protected.” Proverbs 29:25 (CSB)

People-pleasing is a prison you build yourself.

“¹Paul, an apostle — **not from men or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father** who raised Him from the dead — ²and all the brothers who are with me ... Galatians 1:1-2 (CSB)

Paul’s calling didn’t come from people, so his identity couldn’t be controlled by people.

“³Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. ⁵To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ⁶I am amazed that you are **so quickly turning away** from Him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — ⁷not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! ⁹As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!” Galatians 1:3-9 (CSB)

“**For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.**” Galatians 1:10 (CSB)

#1 - The Pull of Approval

#2 - The Problem with People Pleasing

- People-pleasing makes you a mirror, not a masterpiece.
 - You stop being a person and start being a performer.
- People-pleasing makes their opinion your master.
- People-pleasing turns conviction into compromise.

“If you live **for** people’s acceptance, you’ll die **from** their rejection.” - Lecrae

#3 - The Power of Obedience

“I would not be a **servant** of Christ.” Galatians 1:10 (CSB)

You can’t be a slave to opinions and a servant of Christ at the same time.

#4 - The Promise of Freedom

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Never let someone who didn't design you rewrite your identity.

When Christ's approval becomes enough, people's opinions lose their power.

Three quick measures to break free from pleasing people:

- 1. Name the voice you're living for.**
- 2. Obey God in one hard place this week.**
- 3. Anchor your identity in Christ every morning.**

God's voice > their approval

God's calling > their critique

God's truth > their opinions