

Common Failures Christians Fear

For am I now seeking the approval
of man, or of God?
Or am I trying to please man?
If I were still trying to please man, I
would not be a servant of Christ.

- Galatians 1:10

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JOSHUA

¹⁴ “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24: 14-15

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Four Common Failures Christians Face

Failure	Fear	Feeling	Identify	Biblical Truth	Virtue Focus
Approval	Man	Inadequacy	Praise	1 Thess 2:4-8	Humility
Anxiety	Future	Instability	Problems	Matt 6:31-34	Trust
Addiction	Present	Insecurity	Pleasure	Hebrews 12: 1-2	Faithfulness
Adversity	Past	Inevitability	Pain	1 Peter 1 6-9	Perseverance

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Seeking Approval

- Defined by what others think and we often wear masks that allow us present ourselves so that we can be accepted by others.
- Our ability present that mask is a major contributing factor in how we perceive ourselves and how others will accept us
- Causes what is called "Imposture syndrome"
 - when we look around and we see others in similar situations, we can feel like failures because they seem to have it all together.
 - Feelings of constant inadequacy
- **Core: Internal fear of man**

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1 Thessalonians 2:4-8

- ⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.
- ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness.
- ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.
- ⁷ But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children.
- ⁸ So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

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1. Choice from where we seek approval

- ⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, **not as pleasing men, but God** who tests our hearts.
- Kids stages through school
- Kids throw tantrum in store, prestige of IVY league school
- Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of the man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.
- The same thing that lifts us up also destroys us.



Failure	Fear	Feeling	Identify
Approval	Man	Inadequacy	Praise

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2. Challenge is how we seek approval

- ⁵ For neither at any time did we use **flattering words**, as you know, nor **a cloak for covetousness**—God *is* witness.
- ⁶ **Nor did we seek glory from men**, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.
- What we say, our motives, our actions
- Phone example



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A Person's
Actions
Will Tell You
Everything
You Need
To Know

2. Challenges we face approval (cont.)

Wrong Actions we take to seek approval

- Galatians 1:10 “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.”
- Temperament with others vs family
- What’s not intended to be personal becomes personal

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Actions we take to seek approval (cont.)

Tools we can evaluate ourselves by to see where we may fall short:

- Possessions:** I AM WHAT I HAVE
- Performance:** I AM WHAT I DO
- Perception:** I AM WHAT OTHERS THINK OF ME
- Pity:** I AM NOTHING MORE THAN MY WORST MOMENT
- Power:** I AM NOTHING LESS THAN MY GREATEST MOMENT
- Pleasure:** I AM HOW I FEEL



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3. Our Calling with face w/seeking approval

- ⁷ But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.
- ⁸ So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.
- When we seek approval based on how God sees us, we naturally find ourselves sharing approval by building others up.
- Share approval by giving of my provisions(V7) and affection(V8)



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Failure	Fear	Feeling	Identify	Biblical Truth	Virtue Focus
Approval	Man	Inadequacy	Praise	1 Thess 2:4-8	Humility



**Glory be to God,
Forever, Amen**