

WEEK 6: THE IDOL OF APPROVAL

Ice Breaker: What's your phobia? What's so scary about it?

This week, we heard about the first primary motivational idol: the idol of approval. This idol says that the most important thing we can seek in life is the approval and affirmation of others. It causes us to believe the lie that our self-worth depends on the love and acceptance of others, rather than on the love and acceptance of God in Christ alone. Let's put this idol aside, and start to look again to God alone.

Getting Started.

- Did anything stand out to you or hit you personally from this Sunday's message?
- Have you ever been mis-evaluated, and thus, disapproved of? How did that feel?
- Have you ever sought out evaluation/criticism? How has that gone? How did you view it?

Read Galatians 2:11-14.

- Have you ever been in a situation like Paul's and even in the face of everyone else, stood up for what was right? What was that like?
- Can you think of a time where you did something you shouldn't have done (or failed to act) because you were seeking someone's approval, to fit in, to get points, etc.?
- What could "acting in line with the truth of the gospel" mean for a situation you're in now?

Approval Junkies.

- How are you an "approval junkie"?
 - In what situation can you be a people pleaser? Why do you think that is?
 - Do you settle for surface relationships in order to avoid conflict?
 - Do you find yourself telling little white lies to make yourself look better?
- What kind of behaviors are warning signs that you are seeking approval from others?
- What would it look like for you to be liberated from this idol? What would change?
- What could it look like for you to help liberate someone else from this idol?

What God thinks.

Close your eyes, imagine you're alone with God in his glory, and you catch a quick glimpse of his face. He's looking right at you.

- What kind of look is on his face?
 - Disappointed? Angry? Ashamed? Exasperated?
- If the Gospel is true, how does he "look" at you?
- Read and reflect on Romans 8:38-39.

LET'S PRAY!

Breaking the power of this idol in our lives.

Break up into groups of 3-4 (M/F) and share prayer needs. Share anything you need prayer for, as well as how you need God to break the power of this idol for you personally. After everyone has a chance to share, pray for one another. And remember: this week we are praying for the forgotten, so don't forget to pray for them too (no pun intended).

