

Key Principles in Review

- ◆ What is it that acts as a “default” or “auto-pilot” that are so ingrained as to control our lives?
- ◆ How do we go about changing the way we act?
- ◆ What are the two very opposite ways our minds think about our lives?

What Does the Word Say?

JESUS' TEACHING

Matthew 6:2-7; 16-18

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. [3] But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4] so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

[5] “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. [6] But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. [7] And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

[16] “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. [17] But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, [18] so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 23:5

Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

PAUL'S TEACHING

Galatians 1:10

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

Questions to Help Clarify

- ◆ Is there a belief that is more dangerous than the rest?
- ◆ How much of your life have you wasted trying to gain the approval of others?
- ◆ If you have 20 people who think you are wonderful but if you have one person who thinks poorly of you, what do you think about?

Approval Addiction Defined

I must have the approval of _____ in order to feel good about myself.

Am I an “Approval Addict?”

- ◆ Do I avoid certain people?
- ◆ Do I become nervous and anxious when I sense that someone might reject me?
- ◆ Am I uncomfortable around those who are different from me?
- ◆ How much does it bother me when someone is unfriendly to me?
- ◆ Am I basically shy and unsocial?
- ◆ Am I critical of others?
- ◆ Do I find myself trying to impress others?
- ◆ Do I become depressed when someone criticizes me?
- ◆ Do I always try to determine what people think of me?
- ◆ Would I say that I don't understand people and what motivates them?

Results of Being Addicted to the Approval of Others

- ◆ Anger, resentment, hostility
- ◆ Being easily manipulated—churches....can't say no
- ◆ Co-dependency—our lives are overlapped. Your happiness depends upon me.
- ◆ Avoidance of people
- ◆ Control—try to control those who reject you.
- ◆ Hypersensitivity to the opinions of others
- ◆ Dead inside to your own emotions (apathy)

Introducing God's Answer

How do we deal with this issue of trying to please everyone?

God's Solution: _____

Where does this need for people's approval come from?

1. We are _____.
2. God is a _____ being; therefore we have a deep need to _____.
3. This deep need for relationship can only be met when _____.
4. Most people try to meet this need in _____.

Colossians 1:21-22

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—"

God's Solution Revealed in Scripture: Colossians 1:21-22

- This Scripture describes our former condition as being alienated & hostile in our _____.
- The natural man reflects the attitude that Satan has towards God: _____.
- It is important that the mind is the _____.
- For the mind to be hostile towards God means that we are thinking _____ of God.
- Evil deeds are defined as any deed that comes from our mind _____ . Why? Because if we are hostile towards Him, we are in concert with the _____.
- God's determination on what is good or evil is _____.

More Than Enough
Week 4: Approval Addiction
Reconciliation Defined

What did Christ accomplish through His sacrificial death?

Reconciliation which was so complete that He can now present us:

1. _____—Absolutely pure
2. _____—No blame can be attributed.
There is no condemnation.
3. _____—No charge can be made
against us.

Because we have accepted His _____, it now means that He places us in a position of _____. The only other alternative is to say that His death was somehow _____.

How can this be so?

1. We _____.
2. If God had not told us, _____.
3. Reconciliation reflects the _____ of the cross.

Reconciliation Applied

What are the implications of this reconciliation?

We are COMPLETELY ACCEPTED by God.

1. We are _____ by God.
2. There is nothing that can _____ that acceptance.
3. We are not only at peace with the Holy God, we are now in _____ with Him.
4. We are currently _____ with Christ at the _____ of the Father.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. [6] And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [7] in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

- ◆ The fact that God raised us up and seated us with Him is a positional truth and is in the past tense.

Will it make a difference if I come to agree with God?

How can I become aware of this acceptance so I can be free from the addiction from approval?

1. Realize that there are three ways to see reality:
 - The _____.
 - Our _____.
 - What we are actually _____.
2. Realize that it always begins with _____
_____.
3. We must continue to _____.
4. We must be on guard to reject all _____ that would counter this fact.

What are some of the other affects of allowing God to love us?

1. Strength to overcome _____ (most of us are still trying to overcome flesh with flesh).
2. We will have love within us who, like us, do not _____
_____. (We cannot give away that which we do not have—not containers, but conduits).
3. You will continue to grow in your _____ of His love.