



Sermon Series: Intervention
Sermon Title: People Pleasers
Week of September 2-8

Ask, What do people love about pleasing other people?

- Makes me feel good; a form of acceptance;

Ask, What are some things we seek to avoid when people pleasing? Disappointment, anger, abuse

Let's take a look at Two kinds of people pleasers –

1. Self-elevators – These are the people pleasers that result in *what you get*.

- Strive for Perfection – an attempt to keep everyone happy – this ends up being a never-ending cycle because you cannot achieve perfection, nor make everyone happy.
- White lies become a frequently used tool. You say whatever you feel is needed to make the situation/person happy in the moment. The story can change like the wind.
- Trees that split weaken is a good example of how our lives can go when we choose to fill it with white lies and half-truths.

Ask, Why would we choose to be a self-elevator?

We fear rejection and fear is fueled by pride 1 John 2:16

Read this scripture - "For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world."

1 John 2:16 ESV

The world will seek to draw us away by the flesh, the lure of our eyes, and pride.

Paul talks about pride and how to counter it as a Christ-follower in Philippians 2:3.

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

Philippians 2:3 ESV

There is a difference however between ambition and pride.

Ambition – is a profound desire that does not necessarily have its root in selfish pride.

Ask, What might be an example of ambition in your life? (working hard to care for your family; learning a skill such as playing an instrument, getting into a college, etc.)

What does this look like in your next step of obedience? Do nothing from selfishness - the address of pride and conceit.

What does humility look like?

Self-elevators are really self-protectors

2. Self-protectors

- They please in order to avoid things that might go which is incredibly fear based
- They also walk so lightly so you don't offend – "Walking on eggshells" -

- I am at the center – selfishness (fear is the emotion at the root)
- The fear of failure, disappointment, rejection is a terrible boss. It is never pleased with any level of success.

Read Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.”

Proverbs 29:25 ESV

Since true safety lies in the Lord, how might this look in your everyday life?

There is a healthy, reverential fear that the Lord requires -

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?”

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 ESV

There are two popular responses in difficult situations - **Fight or flight**. (some would add a third that is played out in some situations as well and that is freeze)

Fear is natural – but put your fear in the Lord and not in man.

Placing our fear and trust in God requires us to have trust in God at the expense of our surrender to His Lordship. Many times, we are very reluctant to relinquish anything for the false fear of being out of control of a situation. Remember we are never actually in control and we are relying on a false belief.

God will never leave or forsake us and we can trust in Him. ALWAYS.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:6

So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

Encourage those in your group to trust God at His word and to rest in Him.

Allow time for prayer requests and pray.