

Smashing the Idol of Approval

March 16, 2025 | Pastor Mike Foster |
Galatians 1:10 and 2:11-14 | Return to Me

- **Understand the danger of the idol of approval**

- ⇒ It robs God of glory
- ⇒ It uses rather than loves others
- ⇒ It demeans your standing in Christ

- **Smash the idol of approval**

- ⇒ Glory in God supremely
- ⇒ Love others selflessly
- ⇒ Stand in Christ surely

Aiming for obedience:

Lord, I repent of _____

Lord, in response to what you have shown me, I will _____

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

Memorize Galatians 1:10

Meditate on Galatians 2:11-14, 20, Proverbs 29:25, John 5:44, 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

Consider these resources:

bit.ly/SmashApproval

bit.ly/ConsumedByGod

bit.ly/IdolOfApproval

bit.ly/ApprovalToolkit

When People are Big and God is Small by Welch

Counterfeit Gods by Keller

Gospel Treason by Bigney

Listen to “Give Us Clean Hands” – *bit.ly/GiveusCleanHands*

Listen to “All Sufficient Merit” – *bit.ly/AllSufficientMerit*

Listen to the playlist of songs for the “Return to Me” series – *bit.ly/ReturnToMeSongs*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Why do you think people like to be liked?
3. Read Proverbs 29:25. Share about a time when your desire for approval got you into trouble. Did you learn anything?
4. Read Galatians 2:11-14. After all Peter had learned, why do you think he was so vulnerable to the temptation to fear man?
5. Read Galatians 1:10 and Galatians 2:20. How do these verses relate to one another?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. In what ways did Paul protect himself and his ministry from the idol of approval?
7. In what ways have you been guilty of desiring the approval of people too much? (Consider some of the symptoms and/or examples of the idol of approval discussed in the message.)
8. What are some specific actions we can take to protect ourselves from the idol of approval?
9. How do we balance our need for godly counsel and correction with our calling to fear God rather than man? Should we seek wisdom from others? What are the dangers and blessings of doing so?
10. Take some time to share your “I Will” statements with each other and pray for each other.

