

So we've been looking at LIVING SELFLESSLY IN A SELFIE WORLD.

TOUGH DEAL RIGHT? You ever tried to swim upstream...go the wrong way up an escalator?
it's tougher to swim into the waves than simply ride them in right?
This is kind of what it's like to live in the world as a believer...you're swimming upstream.

We've talked about identity, following trends. Both things put us in a tough situation
BUT ultimately I think it comes down to one thing. **OPINION**

WHOSE OPINION ARE WE SEEKING THE MOST? WHOSE APPROVAL DO WE DESIRE?

In life (PERIOD) you can't always please everyone....that's an endless roller coaster.

But then you factor in that you follow Christ...then the road become even more tough....
life is already tough...but then you factor in that you're GOING UPSTREAM. AGAINST CULTURE.

TO BE & LIVE CLEAN IS NOT TRENDY....IT'S not in....so we're left with a choice....what do we do?

VIDEO

LIVING CLEAN IS TOUGH but ultimately we know **LIVING CLEAN IS A LIFE THAT BRINGS GLORY TO GOD.**
so then the hope is that we strive for that....we live for only one opinion....even if that brings struggle

even though it's hard we welcome the struggle, the fight, the battle because at the end of the day
we only want to please the one who gave His life for us.....**OR DO WE?**

I think that we all struggle with pleasing other people.

I think we are all very mindful and care deeply for what others think of us.

even if we say "**I don't care what people think**"....

even in that you want people to know you don't care.

so you do care about what they think

we all care about the opinions of others....even in our rejection of the trend..

BUT It's not that we shouldn't care what people think...I think we should in a way.

I think the right response is "I don't care what people think so long as God is glorified...pleased."

THAT'S THE HOPE!

But is that our heart? Look at 2 Timothy 1:6-9

Paul writing to Timothy says this:

In light of what you're called to do....don't ever forget that God gave you a spirit of power and love and sound mind (self control) NOT FEAR.

DON'T live in fear of rejection, shame, acceptance, or opinions of men. but rather....

v.8 "**DON'T BE ASHAMED OF WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST....** SHARE IN THE SUFFERING/REJECTION THAT COMES WITH THAT....{that's big – so we embrace that thought and live that out...

As the first church is forming and we their story in Acts, we see them live that out...we see two different times where the followers said this...**boldly....WE WILL OBEY GOD RATHER THAN YOU/MAN**

In other words...above all...we seek to please Him...GOD....not you.

THEY DESIRED THEIR LIFE TO SCREAMS WHOSE THEY WERE.....in all things

WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE SCREAM? THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A MINUTE.

THINK ABOUT YOUR WEEK FOR A MINUTE....Like for real....think about it...put it under a microscope.

What is your week screaming? what is the reason you've done what you've done?

I think we do have a huge struggle with opinion.

I think we struggle with whose opinion we seek the most.

I think when we look at WHAT WE DO we begin to see that....if we're honest.

I don't think that's all bad....but it becomes bad when the opinion of others matters more than God's

THINK THROUGH THIS:

At the end of the day when you lay your head on the pillow and you think about your day.

What determines if it was a success or it was a failure?

Is it based on your actions?

Your speech?

Was it acceptable or unacceptable?

What's the standard?

Did you offend them, please them, honor them, satisfy them?

WHO IS THEM? You have to answer that?

You answer those questions and you learn real, real quick whose opinion matters.

Sure, all opinions matter....but whose matters the most to us.

In a couple of weeks we're going to see what God requires of us.

But here's the deal.....

it really doesn't matter to me what God requires of me if his opinion of me doesn't matter.

if you aren't serious about this book, this God, this faith, this place...it doesn't matter what He says.

if God's opinion, calling and expectations aren't important to us...we're at crossroads.

So I think we need to consider tonight "whose opinion of me matters most?"

Answer that question and I think you'll understand **why you do** what you do **when you do** what you do.

It all comes back to who were seeking to please with our life.

I think that will reveal how you live at school, on the weekends and in your room when no one's around.

The world says life is all about you - do what you want - please yourself -do what makes you happy

it's a selfie world but God says something totally different.

So who's right?

Who are you going to listen to?

Who are you going to allow to influence you?

FINISH BY READING GALATIANS 1:6-10

What is your story? Have you given in to the approval or opinions of man? Who are you serving?

Are you willing to take a stand for the gospel in your school? to live different.

are you hesitant to be bold in your faith? When did you last share the Gospel? Do you know it?

How are you living for Christ? That really does matter? Is their fruit?

At the end of the day the only opinion that matters is that which God has....

Do we want others to think good of us? YES...that's ok as long as your main pursuit is pleasing Christ....

If I please others as I please Christ..**great**..but if my pleasing Christ does not please them..I'm sorry.

You may be here and have been crushed by unjust criticism.

A wrong opinion of you partnered with gossip has made life pretty tough. What do you do?

You realize that Christ has brought an end to criticism....but you must trust Him and that.

It is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. . . . It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

I Corinthians 4:3-5

You seek to please Him....but you must call your heart, your motives into question.

Is I Cor. enough? Does that fact that God alone is my judge help me?

Or is the opinion of others a serious stronghold in my life? You must deal with that.

I will say this...the rat race of pleasing others will exhaust you.....Christ releases you from that.

WHO AM I SEEKING TO PLEASE? That's big.

q1 – why do we care what people think of us? Should we?

q2 – what is a healthy way to think about others opinion? shouldn't we kind of want them thinking good