



PEOPLE PLEASER
OR SERVANT OF
GOD?

Galatians 1:10

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him.

People Pleaser or Servant of God?



Scripture

“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Galatians 1:10

Paul wasn't simply asking a question in his letter to the churches of Galatia. He was asking a question so that they would have to think about the hard answer. The churches in Galatia were questioning the gospel message that Paul had left them with. In Galatians 1:6, he says “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel...”

In this verse, Paul is imploring the church to think. When others, false teachers, give them a distorted version of the gospel and tell them that Paul was the one that preached falsehoods...think! When Paul preached the gospel to them, he wasn't concerned that they might not like the message or that they might not like him. When Paul preached the gospel to them, he was acting as a servant of Christ, passing on the true gospel given to him by Christ.

Continue reading in Galatians. In verses 11-24, Paul reminds the churches in Galatia of his journey to the truth and how he came to know the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

Cross reference this verse:

In 1 Thessalonians 2:4 Paul writes: “but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.”

If you don't know the story of Paul's transformation, or haven't meditated on it in awhile, read the following passages and consider what Paul must have felt at that moment.

Acts 9: 1-20 and Acts 26:12-18

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What it Means

Paul has delivered the gospel to the churches and he is reminding them, not so subtly, that he has zero interest in telling them anything but the true gospel as he received from Christ. And, anyone who tells them differently — they are the false teachers. He makes it clear that once he came to know Christ, he stopped caring about being agreeable to others — he is not seeking to please man. And, when he says “If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ,” he is clear in his message that you are not serving God if you are trying to please man — you cannot do both at the same time.

WORD STUDY

The Greek word for “please” in this passage is **aresko** (ar-es'-ko). Aresko means: to be agreeable, to accommodate — not just trying to make others happy, but trying to make yourself acceptable to them.

Think about the difference between pleasing another person and being perceived as agreeable or accommodating others. You can please someone else without compromising yourself — without compromising your beliefs. If you want others to find you “agreeable,” this assumes that, in this particular moment, you don’t agree. When this is the case, chances are you are going to have to change something about yourself — the things you do or the things you say so that you can be agreeable in this moment.

Paul is not concerned with being agreeable to men. Paul refused to change his message to win approval.

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Discern the Truth

It is our nature as Christians to be hospitable and welcoming — that’s a good thing! But, we cross the line when we hold back the truth or ignore a lie so that we will be seen as agreeable. We cross the line when we accommodate the sins and lies of others. We cross the line when we accommodate our own sins.

There are so many times, in real life, where the line between ‘being a good Christian’ and ‘accommodating sin’ is a thin line.

Ask yourself: By your words and your actions, are you serving Christ?

Read Galatians. Read 1 Thessalonians.

If we know the true gospel and serve the one true God, we will get better at seeing that thin line and stronger in staying on the right side of it.

It is not possible to truly serve God, while seeking to please man.

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Observe & Apply

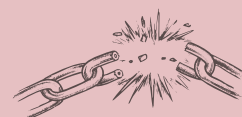
As a ‘good Christian’ and a loving person, you make sacrifices for others and you do things that are pleasing to the ones you love. Do you also sacrifice your relationship with Christ in order to maintain relationships with people? Do you sacrifice your relationship with Christ in order to accommodate your own sin?

- Think about the last time you felt convicted to say or do something and chose to stay silent instead — why did you stay silent?
- What does God put on your heart as you read these passages in Galatians and 1 Thessalonians? What will you do differently today?
- If serving God was your highest priority today, what is one small thing you would do differently? How might others perceive you when you make that adjustment?
- If God sees you as a loyal and faithful servant, does it matter how your neighbor perceives you?

When we adjust our words and actions to please God, we may quietly persuade others to do the same.

ENSNARED NO MORE: DAILY MOMENTS OF DISCERNMENT

VOLUME 1 · MOMENT 2



EnsnaredLife.com

I launched EnsnaredLife.com with a desire to curate honest, truth-telling content alongside simple, purposeful things that strengthen a woman's walk with Christ or just add a little sunshine into the day. I am not a theologian or a professional blogger. I just wanted to learn something new while seeking wisdom and discernment every single day.

I value any time when I can sit alone, or in a small group, and study God's word, but I really wanted something that I could truly grab onto — something deeper than a quick devotional, more meaningful than what's usually on the shelf, yet still doable in the middle of real life. Most of all, I wanted it to be honest, without watering down or ignoring hard truths.

After much prayer about where to take this project, these **Daily Moments of Discernment** are the result. I pray that these short, standalone moments point you straight back to Scripture and help you live **Safe in Christ** — free from the snares that easily entangle us (Proverbs 29:25).

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him. And, may I continue to learn and grow as I create each one.

Thank you for supporting this project!

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the 2001 ESV translation.

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