## **MAN PLEASING**

A common problem today, and a tendency for most people, is man pleasing. It must be noted that we are to please our authorities through our submission and commitment to do the best job. We are also to prefer others in love. But, man pleasing is something all together different. It is a heart/motivation issue where we play up to people to ingratiate them to us or bend to their desire (compromise) when it might conflict with what we know is right.

Rejection seems epidemic in our society and with the rise of rejection, man pleasing rises in direct proportion. This need for people to say or do the thing that will make them more acceptable can also set them at odds with God.

## Galatians 1:10

"For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ."

Everything we do should be for the audience of One (Colossians 3:16), which won't make us popular with the world. In fact, it will cause us to be in conflict with the world (Matthew 5:11-12).

Saul sought to please men doing most of what God required, but not all. He didn't follow the Lord's direction fully (1 Samuel 15:24) and it cost him. God could not trust him. That's why the Lord had removed the kingdom from him and his descendants (1 Samuel 13:13).

Our everyday compromises arising out of the fear of men can cost us, as well. When the Lord sees us faithful, even in the little things (Luke 16:10), He will promote us and use us. We are the clay in the potter's hand and He wants us to let Him mold us. If not, we can face a similar fate to Saul's – we can become spoiled and have to be used somewhere else.

## Jeremiah 18:4

"But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make."

Abraham on the other hand was not one to compromise. When God told him to sacrifice his most valued possession, he did not hesitate. The Lord knew He could trust him and would, therefore, bring about all He had previously told Abraham.

## Genesis 22:16-17

"and said, 'By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son,

indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies."