

Fire in the Belly

Session 11: The Corruption of Approval

Exodus 32:1-4

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into a gold cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods. O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

I. To seek approval is to ...

- Seek popularity
- Compare yourself with others

Ecclesiastes 2

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards....I bought male and female slaves...I also owned more flocks and herds than anyone in Jerusalem before me...I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me...Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done...everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

- Fear disapproval

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

II. Seeking approval leads to ...

- Disregard for God's command

- Denial of relationship with Christ

- Loss of respect

III. Restoring the passion for respect is to ...

- Fear God not man

- Please God not man

Discussion Questions

1. List the three most common forms of “peer pressure” you faced while you were in high school.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. List the three most common forms of “approval” that you are tempted to seek today.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3. Can you give an example of how these forms of approval might conflict with fearing and pleasing God?