

## An Idol Factory | John 12:42-43

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

### The Heart for Approval

#### 1. The Root Problem

##### a. Pride

- i. "The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe." (Proverbs 29:25)

#### 2. The Fruit of the Problem

##### a. Hide

##### b. Pretend

##### c. Try Harder

### The Effects of Approval

##### a. Effects what we say (or don't say)

##### b. Effects what we think

##### c. Effects how we feel

##### d. Effects what we do

#### 2. Two Solutions & Myths

##### a. Higher self-esteem

##### b. Low view of people

- i. "As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you." (C.S. Lewis)

## The BEST Kind of Approval

### 1. Accepted by God

- a. "...and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son,with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

### 2. How do we stay there?

#### a. Humility

- i. "Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all." (C.S. Lewis)
- ii. "A real gospel grounded Christian is able to enjoy smallness because a real gospel grounded Christian has heard with ears of faith, the Fathers' 'well done.' And that's the thing that's grounded their identity and captured their soul." - Bob Thune
- iii. 25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:25-26, 29-30)

#### b. Repentance

#### c. Faith