

Alienate the Harsh Judge
My Harsh Judge Pt. 2

Small Group Questions:

1. What is the most outrageous thing you've done or have seen someone do for approval?
 2. Look at the common lie from the message. Have you ever been tempted to believe this? How has this lie impacted your life?
 3. Read Galatians 1:6-10. How were the Galatians turning from Jesus? Why does Paul include the statement about pleasing people at the end of this passage?
 4. Read Colossians 1:21-22. In your own words, what is the doctrine of reconciliation?
 5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20 and the list regarding how ministers of reconciliation live. Which behavior might you engage in this week? How will you do this?
-

QUESTION: What is the most outrageous thing you've done for approval?

Some things are **EASY** to spot in others and **HARD** to spot in ourselves.

A COMMON LIE: *I must be approved by certain others to feel good about myself.*

Galatians 1:6-10 *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! 10 **Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.***

If you fear the **REJECTION** of others you'll conform to the **EXPECTATION** of others.

Messages from the Harsh Judge:

You have to keep them happy.

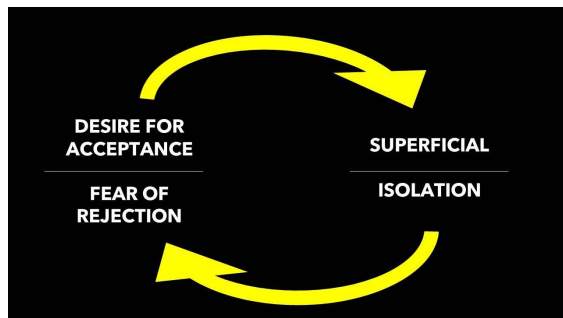
Don't think about them at all.

Don't let them see your weakness.

They will walk away soon.

They don't appreciate you enough.

Colossians 1:21-22 *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—*



KEY TRUTH: Because I'm totally ACCEPTED by God I don't need to fear rejection.

Reconciliation means that although at one time I was hostile and alienated from God, I now have been forgiven and brought into an intimate relationship with God. Consequently, I am totally accepted by God.

—Robert S. McGee

2 Corinthians 5:16-20 *So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

MINISTERS of reconciliation...

Accept feedback.

Desire to please God over people.

Are open and vulnerable.

Relax around others.

Freedom from the fear of rejection.

Invite others into reconciliation.

BOTTOM LINE: God loves the REAL you.