

JESUS FREES US FROM THE NEED FOR APPROVAL

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FREES US FROM THE NEED FOR APPROVAL

1 Thessalonians 2:4; Romans 2:29; 1 Corinthians 10:33; Ephesians 6:6

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 1:10; 2:4-6

“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.”

“Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.”

BIG IDEAS

- Apart from Jesus, we live for the approval of others.
- Jesus sets us free from approval by giving us a new identity.
- Servants of Jesus live for God’s approval.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GALATIANS 1:11-2:14

UNITE: LIVING IN FREEDOM

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as “God’s People” and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- True freedom is only found in being a servant of Jesus
- We are set free not to do whatever we want, but to live for Christ



Every student should feel...

- Grateful for Christ who sets us free
- Convicted of the ways that they are ruled by the desires of their flesh
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Galatians each week
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Deny the desires of their flesh to walk in step with the Spirit



Every student should want...

- See the ways that they are tempted to pursue self-salvation, and repent of these
- Live for the approval of God, not others
- Help others move out of slavery to sin toward freedom in Christ

STUDENT WORKOUT:

This week we will ponder what it means to serve others as we walk in the freedom we have in Jesus. We will pray for understanding of the new identity we have in Jesus. We will practice seeking God’s approval alone.

JESUS FREES US FROM THE NEED FOR APPROVAL



Read Galatians 1:11-2:14 this week and answer the following questions in your journal:

- What does Paul share about his testimony? What does this reveal about the work of the Lord in the lives of His children?
- How does Paul discern the ones who are “false brothers”?
- What does it mean when Paul says that “we did not yield in submission even for a moment”? Why does he do this?
- How did the apostles see that Paul had been entrusted with the same gospel as Peter?
- How do you see Paul being freed from the need for man’s approval?

Read and meditate on Galatians 1:11-2:14 this week. Use the questions below to guide your meditation:

- Consider Paul’s reflection in 1:24, “and they glorified God because of me.” Can you say this about the people around you?
- What are the ways in your life that you are tempted to yield in submission to others? How can you stand firm on the truth of the gospel?
- Ponder the truth that you have a new identity in Christ. How does this new identity keep you from needing approval from other people?



Spend time in prayer this week, confessing the areas in which you are prone to desire the approval of man.

- Pray with your small group leader this week. Ask God to guide you to serve others and to seek His approval alone.



Memorize Galatians 1:10 and 2:4-6 this week with a friend or your parents.

- Make a list of people who you most often desire to find approval from. Ask yourself why you want their approval. Pray over the list and ask for help to seek approval from God and in a way that brings Him glory.
- Meet with your parents or small group leader to discuss some of the temptations you have to seek other people’s approval. Discuss the times when you most want other people’s approval and why. Discuss ways you can trust in the freedom you have in Christ as His servant and how this brings you the godly approval you need.