

Bible Verses about People Pleasing



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People pleasing is commonly referred to as “co-dependency” in our secular society and in psychology. However, I like to search the Bible to see what God calls it. God’s word has power and authority to make changes in our heart and renew our mind, rather than relying on mere human knowledge or effort.

A. People pleasing is basically fear of man instead of proper reverence and fear of God.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but one who trusts in the LORD will be protected.



In preparing His disciples to speak the truth of the gospel, Jesus warned them about persecution.

In Matthew 10:28 Jesus says, “And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Paul in Galatians 1:10 says “I am not trying to please people. I want to please God. Do you think I am trying to please people? If I were doing that, I would not be a servant of Christ.” (CEV)

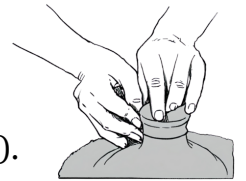
One Bible story about people pleasing is King Saul. In the war on the Amalekites, King Saul kept the plunder in disobedience to God. In 1 Samuel 15: 14 (BSB) the prophet Samuel confronts King Saul, saying, But Samuel replied, “Then what is this bleating of sheep and lowing of cattle that I hear?”

Eventually Saul confesses in verse 24: Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; I have transgressed the LORD’s commandment and your instructions, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.” (1 Samuel 15:24 BSB)



Comparing many translations on BibleHub.com gives a more complete understanding of a concept such as the word “obeyed” used in the last verse. One example is the NLT which says ... I was afraid

of the people and did what they demanded. (NLT). The Good News Translation says...I was afraid of my men and did what they wanted (GNT).



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B. We are personally responsible for confronting (rebuking)

serious problem behaviors and sin in the people in our lives (AFTER examining ourselves Matthew 7:5). The Bible has several commandments that direct us to talk directly to the person when there has been an offense. Dealing with issues directly prevents others from continuing to sin AND prevents sin in us such as resentments and hatred from forming or being tempted ourselves.

Leviticus 19:17

- Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin. (NLT)
- Do not bear a grudge against others, but settle your differences with them, so that you will not commit a sin because of them. (GNT)

Proverbs 27:5-6 Better an open rebuke than love that is concealed. The wounds of a friend are faithful, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. (NASB)

Matthew 18:15 “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.” (NLT)

Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. (NASB)

Proverbs 19:19 A man of great anger will bear the penalty [for his quick temper and lack of self-control]; For if you rescue him [and do not let him learn from the consequences of his action], you will only have to rescue him over and over again. (AMP)



C. People Pleasing is also called Approval Addiction.

If we practice people pleasing, we will NOT be able to confess Jesus Christ as Lord when this belief is unpopular, as it was during Jesus’s ministry and as it has become in our evermore secular culture in the U.S.

Let us practice in small ways now to give up people pleasing, in order to be ready when it really counts.



John 12:42-43 Amplified (AMP)

Nevertheless, even many of the leading men believed in Him [as Savior and Messiah], but because of the Pharisees they would not confess it, for **fear** that [if they acknowledged Him openly] they would be put out of the synagogue (excommunicated); for they **loved the approval of men** more than the approval of God.

John 7:13 Yet no one would speak publicly about Him for fear of the Jews. (BSB)

John 9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews. For the Jews had already determined that anyone who confessed Jesus as the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. (BSB)

Isaiah 51:7 Listen to Me, you who know what is right, you people with My law in your hearts: Do not fear the scorn of men; do not be broken by their insults. (BSB)

Luke 12:8-9 "I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels." (NLT)

Acts 5:29 Peter and the apostles replied: We don't obey people. We obey God. (CEV)

D. Stories about the opposite of People Pleasing:

Some great examples of NOT people pleasing are found in the book of Daniel. Daniel and his friends did not fear the king even though the king could and did order their execution.

In Daniel Chapter 6, Daniel prayed to the True Living God in defiance of the king's decree and was thrown into the lion's den where God protected him from harm. Three chapters earlier, Daniel's friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship the king's statue.





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Daniel 3:16-18 NLT

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

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