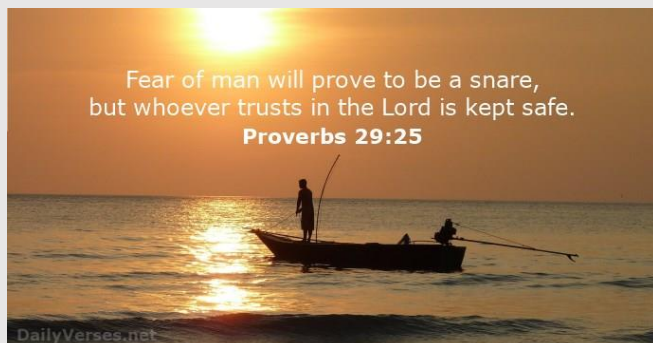


Faith Alive Church

Pastor (Mr.) Tracy Headley



Living for an “audience of ONE” is *the secret to being truly free*. When we live to please the Lord and walk in a manner worthy of Him...that's all that really matters.

Proverbs 29:25 says; NKJV 25 The fear of man brings a snare: but those who *trust* in the Lord shall be safe. NLT 25 Fearing people, is a dangerous trap, but to *trust* the Lord means safety. THE MESSAGE BIBLE: The *fear* of

human opinion disables; but *trusting* in GOD protects you from that. **When we find ourselves ‘saying or doing things’ merely to please people, or not saying and not doing certain things to please people, we become men-pleasers rather than God-pleasers.** The fear of others disables us from walking in the kind of life, God wants for us.

So, what do we do? We should *always seek first* God's approval and accept the fact that we'll never have a 100% approval rating from others. **Be okay with that.** Don't be disabled by the opinions of others...instead, trust the Lord and accept *these* truths:

1. Some people like you; some people don't – So just be who God created you to be *1 Peter 2: 8* And the Scriptures also say, “He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that will make them fall.” They stumble because they do not listen to God's word or obey it, and so they meet the fate that has been planned for them. *9* But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, His very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

2. Some people admire and respect you; some people despise and hate you. *John 15:18* If they *hated me* they will hate you, if they *love me* they will love you and receive my word.

3. Some people agree with you; some people like to argue with you. *1 Peter 3:8* Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. *Timothy 2:23* Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. *24* And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and not resentful.

4. Some people encourage you; some people criticize and tear you down. *1 Thessalonians 5: 10* He died for us so that we can live with him forever, whether we are dead or alive at the time of his return. *11* So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. *Galatians 5:15* But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

5. Some people rejoice with you; some people rain on your parade. *Acts 5:41* And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. *Acts 40* and when they had called the apostles and beaten them, they commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus.

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6. Some people are thrilled with the changes in your life; some people dismiss it. *2 Corinthians 5:17* If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new. *Romans 11:20* Well, because of unbelief they were broken off...

7. Some people love to see you break out of stereotypical paradigms; some people get mad. *Romans 12:2* And be transformed by the renewing of your minds that you may prove that which is good, pure, lovely, and of a good report. *2 Corinthians 12:20* For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

8. Some people approve of your spouse, kids, hair, clothes, hobbies, style; some people dislike the whole package. *John 15: 18* "When the world hates you, remember it hated me before it hated you. 19 The world would love you if you belonged to it, but you don't. I chose you to come out of the world, and so it hates you. 20 Do you remember what I told you? 'A servant is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you! 21 The people of the world will hate you because you belong to me, for they don't know God who sent me.

9. Some people see your potential; some people are threatened by it.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. *Acts 5: 27* Then they brought the apostles in before the council. 28 "Didn't we tell you never again to teach in this man's name?" the high priest demanded. "Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about Jesus, and you intend to blame us for his death!" 29 But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than human authority.

10. Some people are happy when you're blessed and successful; some people are jealous. *3 John 1:2* Beloved, I wish above all things that thou may prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospers. *Proverbs 12:12* Thieves are jealous of each other's loot, while the godly bear their own fruit.

The scriptures shared and the heart of this message; encourage us to LIVE for an audience of ONE and to NOT allow fear to keep us from standing up for Christ. *In Galatians 1:10 Paul says; KJV 10* For, do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. **NLT 10** Obviously, I'm not trying to be a people pleaser! No, I am trying to please God. If I were still trying to please people, I would *not be* Christ's servant.

The key to our 'strength and courage' in these days is to not forget that our allegiance to Christ comes first – Remembering that we love, because He first loved us. **So, let's go for the fruit that lasts and the praise that comes from God!** If you've found the opinions of others disabling you -- make a change today: *Trust in the Lord!*

When we are confident and clear in our hearts that our decisions, actions and words are pleasing to the Lord then we can move forward...full steam ahead, speaking the truth in love and living for an audience of one!