

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*THE DANGER OF PEOPLE-PLEASING*  
The Gospel of John — Week 47

**ICEBREAKER:** What makes your heart beat fast?

**OVERVIEW:** We all want to be liked, admired, applauded, accepted. No one takes pleasure in being rejected, mocked, teased, hated, and despised. But if we are not careful, this natural desire to be liked can turn into the love of human praise. The Bible also calls it the fear of man; sometimes we refer to it as caving in to peer pressure. People-pleasing is destructive to the Christian life because Christianity is often unpopular and out of sync with the ways of the world. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to combat the love of people-pleasing.

1. Read John 12:37-43. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Refer to verses 42-43. What prevented many Christians from confessing Christ?
3. Read Luke 12:8-9. What does it mean to "acknowledge" or "confess" Christ before others? Is it possible to be a secret agent Christian?
4. Read Romans 10:9-10. What must we do to be saved?

5. Read Matthew 28:1-4. What happened to the guards at the tomb when they saw the angel? How does fear paralyze us and prevent us from living for Christ?
6. Read Matthew 10:28. Whom should we fear? Why?
7. Why do we struggle with people-pleasing?
8. Have you ever done something foolish because of peer pressure? Explain.
9. What can we do to overcome the love of human praise?
10. Read Hebrews 13:6. Why don't we need to fear man?

**The Last Word:** "It is better to have God approve, than the world applaud." Thomas Watson