

The Gospel of Mark

Home Group Discussion Guide

Overcome the Fear of Man

Mark 3:20-22

ICEBREAKER: If you could teach any class on any subject, what would you teach and to whom would you teach it?

OVERVIEW: We all want to be liked, to fit in, to belong, to avoid rejection and criticism. But that presents a problem for Christ-followers because following Jesus often results in criticism and rejection. Let's dig deeper and learn how to prevent the fear of man from interfering with our relationship with Christ.

1. Read Mark 3:20-22. 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. Why do people have such a strong desire to be liked, or at least to avoid criticism and rejection?
3. Why is it impossible to be like Christ and be liked by the world?
4. How would you define the fear of man? Why is it a trap (see Proverbs 29:25)?

5. To overcome the fear of man, you must stop trying to be cool and start striving to be like Christ. In what ways do you need to stop trying to be cool?
6. What do you need to do to make sure Christlikeness is your mission and priority?
7. If you try to please everybody all of the time, you won't please anybody any of the time. How can you love people without become a people-pleaser?
8. If you don't strive to imitate Christ, you will imitate somebody else, and you will fail to be yourself. How has the fear of man interfered with you being the person God has uniquely made and called you to be? What do you need to do to get back on the right track?
9. Are you doing something that is wrong or foolish because you are afraid people might reject or criticize you? Explain.
10. Are you avoiding something that you should be doing because you are afraid people might criticize or reject you?

The Last Word: You can't be like Christ and be liked by the world. So stop trying to be cool and start striving to be like Christ.