



Small Group Notes

Text:

Matthew 6:1-4

Title:

Transformation through secrecy

Further scriptures:

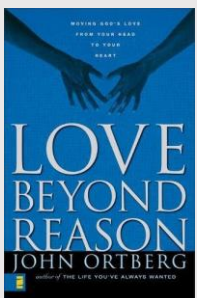
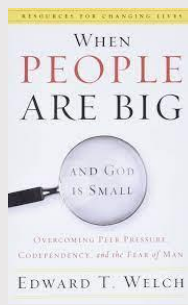
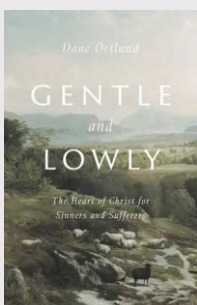
John 3:26-30

Gal.1:10

John 2:23-25

John 17:23-26

Matt. 5:14-16



This week we looked at living in, and out of, the Father's approval, rather than the approval of man. We looked at the challenge of not living for people's approval, how Jesus lived and how the practice of secrecy can help us put our desire for man's approval to death.

Reflect

1. What most impacted you from the passage or from the preach?
2. How does our culture foster an attitude of self-promotion?
3. What are the problems with living for the approval of other people? (Insecurity, enslavement, hypocrisy)
4. How did Jesus live from a place of security in the Father's approval? What can we learn from Him?
5. What is the fruit that comes from living from God's approval rather than for mans? (Security, freedom, authenticity).
6. What is the difference between living as lights in the world and living to be seen by others?

Respond

1. In what ways do you struggle to live for the approval of others? (Look at the list of symptoms on the Practice Sheet for helpful prompts).
2. Do you ever struggle to accept God's approval? Why is this? How can we grow in knowing the Father's approval?
3. What do you think about the practice of secrecy? How could it be helpful in putting to death the desire to be 'seen' or 'praised' by others?
4. In what ways do you think God is calling you to 'decrease'? (See John 3:30).

Practice

1. Look at the suggestions in Practice 2 of the Secrecy Practice Sheet. Choose one to commit to doing for the next two weeks, then share your experiences within your small group / discipleship group or with a trusted friend. (You don't have to tell them what you've done, so as not to draw attention to yourself(!), but what impact the practice has had on your heart.)

Further reading

Gentle and lowly, *Dane Ortlund*

When people are big and God is small, *Edward. T. Welch*

Love beyond reason, *John Ortberg*