

1. Pleasing God requires listening to God. People pleasers listen to the voices of others. (v.1)

Whose voices have you heard this week that tempted you to disobey God?

Whose voices do you regularly hear that encourage you to obey God? Do you have a “Samuel” in your life that God uses to speak truth to you? Who?

Describe the last specific direction you received from God’s Word? (Not feelings or impressions) Did you obey or disobey?

Have you been listening to God’s Word by regularly reading the Bible?

2. Pleasing God requires faith. People pleasers rely on limited rationale of others. (v. 2-9)

God’s instructions often defy common sense. Have others ridiculed you for acting in faith and obedience to God?

If I knew everything God knows, I would not question anything God does. Do you resist God because he has acted in a way that you don’t understand? Do you think you know better than God? How is that working for you?

Are you often surrounded by faithless people? Do you find yourself hiding your faith because you don’t want them to think you are weird for believing in things you can’t see?

Have you considered how your faith in and obedience to God could spark faith in them?

3. Pleasing God requires humility. People pleasers need the praise of others. (v. 10-21)

Are you caught in any of these five traps of people pleasing?

1) **Pride** – “I need you to think I am awesome, because I know I am.”

2) **Pretense** – “I need you to think I am awesome because I know I am not.”

3) **Popularity** – “I need awesome people to think I am awesome. (Who cares what the unpopular people think.)”

4) **Pressure** – “I need you to think I’m awesome so much, I will let you control me through your expectations.”

5) **Power** – “I need to pressure you to accept my definition of awesome.”

4. Pleasing God requires crushing the idol of self. People pleasers want the misdirected worship of others. (v. 22-31).

Would you rather work hard for God, give time and money to God, and make sacrifices for God than simply obey what God has told you to do?

Do you have any idols? Are you willing to crush them? How?

- Anything that you think of more than God is an idol.
- Anything your heart loves more than God is an idol.
- Anything that you want more than God is an idol.

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- Anything that controls you more than God is an idol.
 - Anything in your life that consumes time and space that belongs to God is an idol.

5. Pleasing God requires complete obedience. People pleasers compromise for the approval of others. (v. 32-33).

List areas in your life where you have almost completely obeyed God. What must you do to make your obedience complete?

Additional Scripture

- John 12:43
- Matthew 23:5-7
- Matthew 6:1-3
- 1Thessalonians 2:4-6
- Psalm 135:15-18