

## Intro:

Today's message is titled "Dealing with Your Struggles About the Church's Love for You." This would have been part of the last series, but.... I decided to make it its own thing

## Defining the issue – 5m

- Define it
- How this issue is different from last time
  - How it is different
  - We still have a problem with it though, and it still needs to be addressed
- This is an issue we all struggle with
  - Ask people to stand up if they've struggled with this
  - Explain why you asked them to do that
  - I can't think of a single person I know, even the most confident people I know, who have never struggled with this.
- Prelude: this message might not have quite as much Scripture quotes as usual, but this is a biblically important subject and that is why I am teaching on it. ([Hebrews 12:1](#))

## Why This Issue is Important – 10m

- 1. This affects all of your most important relationships
  - 1. How close you are with others in the church (we are supposed to be close with others in the church)
    - How it affects it
      - This will keep you from having close relationships in the church
      - You can't have close relationships without trust
    - Why it is important
      - This will hold you back in how much you allow yourself to experience God's grace through His church.
      - If you lack close relationships in the church, that will hold you back on how much you're contributing to the lives of others in the church
  - 2. How your relationship with your discipler and or pastor goes
    - How it affects it
      - You'll be less open to hear what they have to say
      - Hearing rebuke will become painful
      - You won't be able to enjoy the relationship like you ought to be able to
    - Why it is important
      - Your relationship with your discipler is very important.
      - It's very important that you trust them enough that you can hear rebuke without being too hurt about it
  - 3. Your marriage
    - How it affects it
      - You won't be able to have intimacy like you should
      - This will cause confusion and fights between you and your spouse
      - This will keep you from being able to enjoy the marriage like you ought to

- 2. This affects a ton of your emotional life
  - Depression
    - This can be a major cause of depression (it has caused me a lot)
  - Anxiety
    - This will also cause of a person to have anxiety (it leads to social anxiety)
- 3. This is super connected to fear of man
  - How it is
    - Having this exaggerated sense will always lead to more fear of man
      - **Fear of man is just an exaggerated since of how bad others would think of me and how bad it would be for me if they did. (say it again)**
  - Why that is important
    - Fear if man hinders so much of what we do for the Kingdom
- 4. Demons want you to struggle to accept the church's love for you
  - We need to be aware of Satan's devices
  - If demons are trying to get you to believe something, you shouldn't believe it

## What You Should Believe About the Church's Love for You – 10m

- 1. Your ability to offer things of value to others is not something that can be taken away from you. It is not something that you can screw up.
  - A lot of our struggles with receiving love from others is often connected to the idea that we have nothing of value to offer socially
  - If a person lives by relational principles laid out in God's Word, their fellowship will have value for others. You can guarantee it.
  - It is something God gave you and that God is perfecting in you, and it cannot be taken away
  - God has given you the ability to bless others socially. You might not be using it, but you definitely have it.
- 2. You will be loved for all eternity by everyone in the church
  - No issue or negative thought will last
  - This should give us comfort and confidence
  - This makes all of our bitterness and unforgiveness look really silly
- 3. You have a role to fill in the church, and nothing can take that away. It was given by God, and it was given regardless of how "competent" you might be
  - You have things to do for the kingdom that are valuable. You have an important role no matter who you are or how incompetent you tell yourself you are. (1 Corinthians 12:15-26)

## You Have to Learn to Identify the Issue – 5m

- If you do not get to the point where you see it for what it is, it won't get better.
  - You have to learn to recognize when you are exaggerating the negative thoughts of others
  - If you don't start to recognize it, you will never deal with those thoughts and things won't get better
- How to start to identify it
  - Whenever you think that someone else has strong negative feelings towards you, ask yourself whether or not you are exaggerating them any
  - Ask someone else you trust whether or not they think you struggle with this
  - Whenever you find yourself being anxious about what others will think of you, ask yourself whether or not you're exaggerating how badly others will think of you
  - Ask God these things in prayer. Ask Him to show you where you struggle with this.

## My Personal Struggles with This – 5m

- Moving to back to the states
- Having no friends
- Thinking I wasn't likable as a person
- All the time it took to get over it
- All the unreasonable stuff I thought
  - I should have seen that I had worth (I had ability and just wasn't using it)
  - Having this change in thinking has freed me from the effects of that

## Other ways to fight against this: - 5m

- 1. What John Gray did (Start writing down compliments when you get them)
  - He used to really struggle with this
  - Then he started to write down whenever someone gave him a compliment
  - This really helped him
- 2. Try to look at situations through other people's eyes
  - Explain it
  - This is something I used to do when I was struggling with anxiety about what others might think of me, and it helped me a good amount
- 3 Meditate on the truth
  - Write down the points from the "What You Should Believe about the Church's Love for You" section and meditate on them regularly. Take the time to really think through it.
- 4. SOZO and Deliverance
  - They can really help with this
- 5. Pray and fast
  - If anything is an ongoing struggle in your life you have a hard time getting past, you should be regularly praying about it and you should probably start to pray with fasting about it.

## DON'T LET DESIRE FOR SAFETY KEEP YOU FROM RECEIVING LOVE – 5m

- Explain why this would be an issue/temptation
  - You might be afraid to trust people enough to try to see things accurately. This was a struggle for me. What I went through was so painful that I started to want to believe that others didn't like me just so that I wouldn't be caught off guard by it.
- Both are risk
  - Explain it:
    - You might be avoiding the risk of being caught off guard, but you are now risking the chance of never having some deep and meaningful relationships that you could otherwise have.
    - There is no way to avoid risk, you are either risking one or risking the other.
- I guarantee you'll miss out and regret it
  - If you play it safe and never get relationships where you actually allow yourself you trust the other person that they love you deeply and unconditionally, I guarantee you will regret it.
- GO BIG ON THIS

## Conclusion – 3m

- Take a hard honest look at how much you struggle with this (and pray that God would show you)
- Don't let fear get in the way
- Do what it takes to deal with this. Overcoming this would be life changing if you struggle with this. (ya probs do)

## Next Week We Will Look At: – 2m

- Common Objections and Their Appropriate Responses

## Q&A