

Danny Anderson
Being Spiritual, week 2

True spirituality is a matter of another reality.

- “A person is a ‘spiritual person’ to the degree that his or her life is correctly integrated into and dominated by God’s Spiritual Kingdom.” - Dallas Willard

Living for the approval of people is dysfunctional and destructive.

- *Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.* - Proverbs 29:25
- *Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn’t admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.* - John 12:42-43
- *Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.”* - 1 Samuel 15:24

A spiritual person is one who lives for the audience of One.

- *I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.* - 1 Corinthians 4:3-5
- *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.* - 2 Corinthians 5:10
- *So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.* - Romans 14:12

How do we become people who live for the audience of One?

You must seek approval from God alone.

- *“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”*
- Matthew 6:1-4

Let your actions and decisions be motivated by the audience of One.

- *Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face.* - Psalm 89:15
- *But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”* - Acts 4:19-20

WEEKLY BIBLE READING			
One Year New Testament	SUNDAY Hebrews 12:14-29	MONDAY Hebrews 13:1-25	TUESDAY James 1:1-25
This Week →	November 15	November 16	November 17
WEDNESDAY James 1:26-2:18	THURSDAY James 2:19-3:18	FRIDAY James 4:1-17	SATURDAY James 5:1-20
November 18	November 19	November 20	November 21
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 12:43			

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

1. From a very early age, we notice we have an audience, and because of our thirst for audience approval, we can end up living our lives based on people's opinions. Throughout your life, what audiences have had the most influence over your choices and behaviors?

2. Living for the approval of others (aka "the fear of man") can be destructive to our lives. In what ways is "the fear of man" a trap?

Danny mentioned three reasons the fear of man can be so destructive. It can lead us to 1) pursue the wrong things, 2) deny our faith, and/or 3) disobey God. Which one of these most resonated with you and why?

One version of Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that." Where are you feeling pressured to gain the approval of others? What has that pressure led you to pursue? What has the fear of man kept you from doing that you know God wants you to do?

3. A spiritual person is one who lives for an audience of One. READ 1 Corinthians 4:3-4. The Apostle Paul was motivated to live for the audience of One, his Lord Jesus Christ. What does it mean to live for an audience of One? What should this look like in your daily life?

READ Acts 4:1-20. When Peter and John were confronted, what motivated them to listen to God's voice instead of the voices of those around them? How do you become the type of person who is able to quiet the voices around you so you can hear the one voice that matters most?

4. What would you say is the biggest benefit or blessing of living for the audience of One? READ Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-18. How does the spiritual discipline of secrecy help us live for the audience of One?

What can you do this week so that your actions and decisions are motivated by the audience of One?



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