

Overcoming the Expectation of Others

Bible

Main idea: To encourage believers to seek God's approval rather than conforming to societal expectations

Topic: How do I Overcome the Expectation of Others

Scripture passages to support your point on overcoming the expectation of others:

1. Galatians 1:10 - "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ."

2. Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

3. Proverbs 29:25 - "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."

Language suggestions from the original languages:

1. In Galatians 1:10, the Greek word for "approval" is "aresko," which can also mean "to please." Emphasize the contrast between seeking the approval of others versus seeking to please God.

2. In Romans 12:2, the Greek word for "conform" is "suschematizo," which implies being molded or shaped by external influences. Highlight the importance of renewing our minds to align with God's will rather than conforming to societal expectations.

3. In Proverbs 29:25, the Hebrew word for "fear" is "yirah," which can also mean "reverence" or "awe." Explore the idea of fearing God rather than fearing the opinions of others.

Additional Scripture verses to consider:

1. Matthew 6:1-4 - Jesus teaches about doing good deeds without seeking recognition from others.

2. Colossians 3:23-24 - Encouragement to do everything as if working for the Lord, not for human masters.

3. Psalm 118:8 - "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans."
Highlight the importance of trusting in God rather than relying on human expectations.

Remember to weave these passages into your sermon, emphasizing their relevance to your main point. Additionally, you can provide practical suggestions such as seeking God's guidance through prayer, focusing on personal growth rather than comparison, and finding strength in the knowledge of God's unconditional love and acceptance.