



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE WAY
OUT



You Can't
Please Everyone

OVERVIEW

Let's be honest. Most of us want people to like us. We want our friends to think we are cool. We want to fit in. It feels good to be accepted. But the temptation to please everyone can pull us away from the most important thing, which is living to please God first.

Solomon started strong. He loved God and built the Temple. He was blessed with wisdom, riches, and influence. But over time, Solomon cared more about pleasing other people than pleasing God. He wanted peace with other nations. He wanted to keep everyone happy. But in the process, he made choices that pulled him away from God.

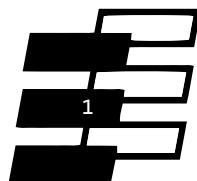
This lesson will show us why pleasing people cannot come before pleasing God. When we live to make people happy first, we always lose more than we think.

Scripture Passage

1 Kings 11:1-13 (KJV)

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded. Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee,



and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

EDUCATE

Point 1: Pleasing everyone pulls your heart away.

(See I Kings 11:1–4.)

Solomon started his life loving God with all his heart. He built the Temple where people worshiped. He led the nation toward God. He was known for his wisdom. He was loved by the people.

But as Solomon got older, something changed. He wanted more. He married women from other nations to build peace treaties. These women worshiped false gods. Solomon wanted to keep them happy, so he allowed their gods to be part of his life. Slowly, his heart turned away from God.

Why is it so dangerous to care more about what people think than what God thinks?

When Solomon was young, he worked hard to please God. When he got older, he worked harder to please his wives and the people around him.

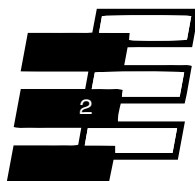
God told His people not to marry women from nations that worshiped false gods because He knew it would pull their hearts away. Solomon ignored this warning. He let the desire to please people become bigger than his desire to please God.

Have you ever felt like you wanted to make someone happy even when you knew it was not what God wanted?

Trying to please everyone will always pull you in the wrong direction. You cannot follow God and follow the crowd at the same time.

Point 2: Pleasing everyone will lead you to compromise.

(See I Kings 11:5–8.)



Lesson 3

Solomon's choices got worse. He did not just allow false gods to stay in his house. He built altars and worship spaces for these gods in Israel. Some of these false gods required terrible things like human sacrifice. Solomon never would have started here, but when you keep trying to please people, you start making bigger and bigger compromises.

What Solomon tolerated at first, he ended up building and supporting later.

Why do you think small compromises can turn into big mistakes over time?

Solomon probably thought he was keeping peace. He probably told himself that making people happy was more important than following all of God's rules. But this was a huge mistake. God does not take second place. His first commandment is clear. We should have no other gods in our lives.

Solomon's desire to please his wives became more important to him than his love for God. His heart got pulled further and further away.

Can you think of times when people try to please others by ignoring what is right?

Trying to please everyone will always lead you to places you never meant to go.

Point 3: Pleasing everyone will cost you.

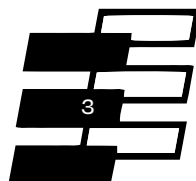
(See I Kings 11:9–13.)

God warned Solomon again and again. God had spoken to Solomon personally, not just once, but twice. But Solomon kept doing what he wanted. He loved the approval of people more than the approval of God.

Solomon's choice to please people cost him the kingdom. God told Solomon that the nation would be split. Everything Solomon had worked for would fall apart.

Solomon lost the unity of his people. He lost his close relationship with God. He lost the future that could have been.

What are some things people can lose when they care more about pleasing people than pleasing God?



Lesson 3

God still showed mercy. Because of David's prayers and faithfulness, God allowed Solomon's kingdom to stay together until Solomon died. But after that, the kingdom split and never fully recovered.

Living to please people always costs more than you think. It pulls you away from God. It changes your priorities. It leads to a divided life and divided heart.

How can we tell when our desire to please people is getting too strong?

Closing

Wanting people to like you is normal. Wanting to be loved and accepted is part of life. But the most important question is, who are you trying to please the most? God or people? You cannot please everyone. But you can choose to live for God.

Solomon's story shows us what happens when pleasing people becomes more important than pleasing God. It pulls your heart away. It leads to compromises you never planned. And it costs you more than you can afford.

ENGAGE

Let's take time to pray. Ask God to help you care more about what He thinks than what people think. Ask Him to help you stay focused on pleasing Him first. If you have been caught up in trying to make people happy instead of following God, today is your chance to shift your focus.

Living for God is always the right choice. He will always show you the way out.

