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**Week 4**

 **Chasing Approval**

**INTRODUCTION**

We all had heroes growing up; both far away heroes – someone you admired like Michael Jordan – and heroes that you actually interacted with. When you were young, who were your heroes, in other words whose approval meant the most to you? Why?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Have you ever cared too much about what others thought? How did your desire for approval affect you?
2. People-pleasers face three problems: obsessing over what others thing, feeling overly sensitive to criticism, and having a hard time saying “no.” Which of these problems describe you? Why do you think you have a hard time with that problem?
3. In what ways is fearing what others think a trap?
4. Read Galatians 1:10. If we were to prioritize Christ’s approval over the approval of others, how might that change our lives and our relationships?
5. What are some ways you can stop seeking approval from others?
6. What steps can you take to start embracing who God says you are?

**STEPPING FORWARD**

This week spend some time reading what God has to say about who you are. Look up these passages: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:7, Romans 8:37, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 5:14, Romans 8:11, Romans 8:17, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Romans 1:7.

*Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.*

**Proverbs 29:25**