

John 12:43, “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”



It’s a trap! Satan’s trap! If you love the praise of men more than the praise of God, it’s a trap!

I find it interesting to note that the word for ‘praise’ in Greek is “doxa” which is also translated glory, glorious, honor, dignity and worship. Each one of these describes the adoration we should give God.

This verse warns us against desiring those adorations for ourselves. For example, we enjoy it when we are praised for something we do. It makes us feel good about ourselves to receive an ‘Attaboy’ or expression of encouragement, support or approval.

The warning in this verse goes beyond a simple ‘Attaboy’. This person feeds on the glory and does not give God the glory. Forgetting that without God they could nothing.

Romans 16:18, “For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”

When someone is basking in their own glory they are usually blind to their hearts true behavior. Or they simply refuse to do the necessary self- examination of the heart that we all must do on a frequent basis.

A good example to demonstrate self-adoration concerns special music sung before the sermon. The purpose of the song is to prepare hearts for the message.

Each singer must be honest with themselves to determine their motives behind singing. Are they singing for their own praise or for the praise of God?

A good way to test the spirit of the singer is to honestly ask questions like the following:

- 1) While singing, was the message of the song coming from my heart? Is it something I believe?
- 2) Was I more concerned about the performance and how I looked than about my heart attitude?
- 3) Who was I singing for? The audience or for the pleasure of God alone? (We should be singing as if we are singing praises to God alone. This heart attitude helps others to join along with us in praise to God much like prayer during the church service. One person prays, yet we all join in with united hearts to God. The special music is sung while our hearts sing along with them, becoming a sweet smelling savor rising up to the ears of the Lord.)
- 4) Afterwards when others give me those 'Attaboys', do I control my pride? (Everyone is tempted in this area. Being tempted with pride is part of being human. But when we grasp the temptation and bask in self-glory, a red flag is waving declaring our false motives.)

I am confident that every person is tempted to bask in self-glory. Whether it is through singing, preaching or any ministry; this temptation comes to us all.

Why does the devil go to such efforts to trap us into basking in self-glory?

- 1) When we bask in self-glory, we take off our servant robes, thus in effect making us useless.

Galatians 4:10, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of God."

- 2) When we bask in self-glory, we lose our boldness for Christ. Without boldness, we do little.

1 Thessalonians 2:4, "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

- 3) When we bask in self-glory, we become God's enemy!

James 4:4, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

May these thoughts, along with John 12:43, help you as you battle to keep your flesh under control. The tempter will tempt you to love the praise of men more than the praise of God. Remember, it's a trap!

