**VII. Jesus was and is rejected (Is. 53)**

 ***-****Putting our rejection in perspective*

***-****Rejected that we might be accepted (Ephesians 2)*

 ***-****He is able to sympathize with our rejections.* *(Hebrews 4)*

**Conclusion:**

*-There is a rejection to fear (Matthew 7:21-23)*

**Fear of Man**

**Class 4: We fear people will reject us.**

*“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” Isaiah 53:3*

## I. Introduction

 *-Where do I find my identity and meaning?*

*-People do reject us.*

**II. How do we manifest fear that other people will reject us?**

 -*Concerns about personal characteristics*

***-****Going fishing … for compliments*

 *-Perfectionism*

***-****Going along … with the crowd*

***-****We don’t share the gospel.*

 *-We don’t confront sin.*

***-****In our posture towards others*

 *-In our speech*

**III. How fearing rejection and craving approval harms us**

 ***-****Enslaves us*

***-****The love for praise undermines our receiving it*

***-****Results in blindness to sin*

***-****Susceptibility to being ensnared by flattery*

 *-Temptation to other sins*

***-****Physical and psychological toll*

## IV. How pride fuels our fear of rejection

 “*If the fear of man is the fire that rages within our hearts, then pride is*

*the wood and oxygen that fuels the blaze.”*

*-Pride can cause us to distort our sins and faults.*

*-Pride tempts us to elicit praise.*

*-Pride causes us to misapply the praise and critique we receive.*

*-Pride tempts us to overvalue strengths and minimize weakness.*

*-Pride tempts us to change our behavior not our heart.*

*-Pride tempts us to dismiss confrontation over sin.*

**V. So, should I ever seek to please others?**

 ***-****As much as needed for gospel ministry and proclamation*

***-****In relation to respecting parents and authorities*

***-****In marriage it is right to please your spouse.*

***-****It is right to deny yourself for the sake of not offending (Rom 15)*

**VI. Fear of rejection in Scripture**

 *-Fear of rejection is idolatry. (Romans 1:25)*

 *-Temptation for those in authority (Deut 1:17)*

***-****Saul’s fear of rejection by the people (I Samuel 15:18)*

***-****The Jewish Leaders (John 12:42 – 43)*

*“for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”*

***-****Peter at Antioch with the Jews (Galatians 2:11 – 12)*

***-****Pilate before the crowd (Mark 15:15)*

*“So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified”*