

HARD LESSONS IN LIFE: NOT EVERYONE WILL LIKE YOU

That's okay - it's not your job to please everyone.

Compiled by Joe Keim and taught in a group setting

1. Opening Thought

Not everyone will like you.

That can be painful, frustrating, and hard to accept.

Sometimes people may:

- misunderstand you,
- criticize you,
- reject you,
- gossip about you,
- or simply not connect with you.

Many people spend their lives trying to make everyone happy.

But if you live only for the approval of others, you will constantly feel exhausted, anxious, and disappointed.

- You should treat people kindly and respectfully.
- But you cannot control what everyone thinks about you.
- God did not create you to please everyone. He created you to follow Him faithfully.

Learning this lesson helps you become emotionally strong and confident in who God made you to be.

Illustration

A peach tree does not try to become an apple tree so everyone will like it.

It simply grows and produces the fruit it was created to produce.

In the same way, God wants us to become who He created us to be, not spend our lives trying to gain everyone's approval.

2. Scripture

Galatians 1:10 –

“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 Christ.”

- We cannot fully serve God if our main goal is pleasing people.
- Sometimes doing what is right will disappoint others.

Example

The apostle Paul was criticized, rejected, and hated by many people even while serving God faithfully.

John 15:18-19 –

“If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”

- Even Jesus was rejected by people.
- Following God does not guarantee everyone will approve of you.

Bible Illustration

Jesus healed people, loved people, and taught truth, yet many still mocked and rejected Him.

Proverbs 29:25 –

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

- Living for people’s approval can trap you.
- Peace comes from trusting God more than public opinion.

Illustration

A person trying to please everybody is like someone trying to hold water in their hands. No matter how hard they try, they can never keep everyone satisfied.

Romans 12:18 –

“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

- We should try to live in peace with others when possible.
- But sometimes conflict still happens even when we do our best.

Example

You can be respectful, honest, and kind, and still not be liked by everyone.

3. Discussion Questions

1. Why do people care so much about what others think?
 2. Have you ever changed your behavior just to fit in or gain approval?
 3. What happens when someone constantly tries to please everybody?
 4. What is the difference between being kind and being controlled by people’s opinions?
 5. Why do you think Jesus was rejected by some people?
 6. How can we stay confident without becoming prideful or arrogant?
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4. Practical Examples

- **Friendships:** Some people may stop liking you when you refuse to gossip or join in sinful behavior.

- **Social media:** People may criticize your appearance, beliefs, or choices online.
- **Church or ministry:** Not everyone will agree with your decisions or personality.
- **School or work:** You may be left out, misunderstood, or unfairly judged.
- **Boundaries:** Some people become upset when you say “no” or protect your time and values.
- **Faith:** Following biblical convictions may cause others to mock or reject you.

Real-Life Illustration

Imagine a man, his son, and a donkey traveling through town.

At first, both walked beside the donkey. People criticized them for not riding it.

Then the son rode the donkey. People criticized the son for letting the older man walk.

Then the father rode the donkey. People criticized the father for making the boy walk.

Then both rode the donkey. People criticized them for overloading the animal.

No matter what they did, someone complained.

That is life.

If you try to please everyone, you will lose yourself in the process.

5. Challenge for This Week

Think about one area where you worry too much about people’s opinions.

Finish this sentence:

“This week I will focus more on _____ instead of trying to please _____.”

Examples:

- “I will focus more on obeying God instead of pleasing friends.”
- “I will focus more on being honest instead of trying to fit in.”
- “I will focus more on healthy boundaries instead of making everyone happy.”
- “I will focus more on my values instead of chasing approval online.”

Weekly Action Step

1. Notice when you feel pressure to impress others.
2. Ask yourself:
“Am I doing this because it is right, or because I want approval?”
3. Practice making one decision based on wisdom instead of popularity.
4. Pray for confidence to follow God faithfully.

6. Closing Thought

Not everyone will like you, and that is okay.

Your worth does not come from popularity, approval, or public opinion.
Your worth comes from God.

Jesus Himself was rejected, misunderstood, and criticized.
So do not measure your value by how many people approve of you.

Be kind.

Be respectful.

Be loving.

But do not lose yourself trying to make everybody happy.