**Sermon Title:** Living not to please man but God alone.

**Quote:** In chapter six we “have what we may well call a picture of the Christian living his life in this world in the presence of God, in active submission to God, and in entire dependence upon Him.” – D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

**Chapter 6 has two Sections**: Vs. 1-18 & Vs. 19-34

**V. 1 –** Is an introduction to the first 18 verses.

**Matt. 6:1:** Beware of practicing your righteousness **before other people *in order to be seen*** by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

**Verse One’s Big Idea:** Jesus warns us not to practice our righteousness merely to be seen by other people.

* Oftentimes Christians instead of living to please God, we live to please man. Christians desperately need to learn the value of big-God living in a man-pleasing world.

Jesus gives us **three illustrations** of normal Christian practices that we need to keep his initial principle in mind while doing. 🡪 Almsgiving or Giving (V. 2), Praying (V. 5), and Fasting (V. 16)

**Question:** Do these three aspects of Christian living summarize all religious life between man and God? **– Notice the when in these verses… when you give, pray, fast…**

* Our giving to others and back to God, the nature of my prayer life and relationships or contact with God, and in fasting the way in which one battles the flesh.

**Another Question:** Does this command contradict what Jesus said in Matt. 5:16?

* Is the practicing out of our faith to be seen or not seen, which is it?
* I do not believe these to be contradictory. The Christian is to live in such a way that men looking at him or her, and seeing the quality of his or her life, will glorify God. Always remembering that at the same time he or she is not to do things in order that he or she may attract attention to themselves. The pursuit of all things is **God’s glory**!
* Jesus is warning us about **both extremes**, and the Church/Christians throughout the centuries has struggled continuously at times with this balance. They have either been **ostentatious** (flashy), or so afraid of self and self-glorification that they have **segregated** themselves from the world.

**Two Important Principles from Verse One: Big-God Living**

1. First, we should realize that *our supreme object in life should be to please God*, to please Him only, and to please Him always and in everything.
   * Look no further than **Jesus’ example**. He lived so entirely for God, that Jesus routinely even said that the words He spoke were not of Himself and that the works He did were the works which the Father had given Him to do. John 5:30 (God’s will); John 7:16-18 (not His Teaching); John 17:8 (His words) …
2. Secondly, we must remember that we are *always in the presence of God*.
   * We must always live with the reminder that we are always in God’s presence. This can be one of the greatest motivations in seeking and striving towards a mature walk with Christ. When you **wake up** and before you **lay your head down**, remind yourself that ***you are in the presence of God***. **Psalm 139:7**!

**Shift: Digging deeper into why we tend to, at times, live to please man.**

**Thought to Ponder:** If you want to uncover who or what a person worships, look no further than his or her source of Joy.

* The point of the passage is that our righteousness should be performed finally ***for an audience of one*** for the pleasure of one.

**Thought to Ponder**: Humans seek the praise of others, not from a place of power, but a place of fear.

**Quote:** Ed Welch a Counselor says the following: “People who angle for the praise of other people for their joy actually have a fear-of-man problem.”

**Three Reasons Why We Fear People:**

1. We fear people because they can expose and humiliate us.
2. We fear people because they can reject, ridicule, or despise us.
3. We fear people because they can attack, oppress, or threaten us.
   * Add: Acceptance (peer-pressure), a desire to be significant and noticed…

* All three reasons have one thing in common: they see people as “bigger,” more important, significant, or more powerful than God. Out of this fear we give others power.

**Ed’s Conclusion:** Out of fear we give others a place of power and right to tell us what to feel, think, and do.

**Important Points to Remember:**

* We don’t perform righteous deeds for our heavenly **Father’s acceptance**; but rather we perform righteous deeds because *we’re already accepted*.
* We don’t do the actions of faith **to obtain a relationship with him**, but we seek to please him because *we already have a relationship with him* and we love to please the one we love.

**Back to Matthew 6:1-4: A Couple Final Points**

1. **Reward for faithfulness in Heaven**: Verses 1 and 4 again remind us that being faithful to Jesus’ teaching will gain us reward in heaven. Living for reward in heaven is often encouraged in the New Testament. – 2 Corn. 5:10; Rev. 22:12; Matt. 25:20-23; **2 Cor. 9:6**…
2. **About Giving:** We are called to give (remember last week too). Jesus teaches that there is a wrong way and a right way to give. The wrong way is to announce your giving or to tell others about your charity. Jesus warns us to not announce to others in any way, shape, or form what you are doing, in regards to giving.