



PRESSURE TO PLEASE

Read Galatians 1:10. How might Paul be accused of people pleasing? What response does Paul give to such accusations?

Read 1 Samuel 10:17-27. What are the circumstances under which Saul is made king? How did the misperception of the people impact Saul? What do you think is the source of Saul's pressure (God, people, both)?

How are you affected by people pleasing? What kinds of issues or circumstances do you feel the most pressure about to agree with others? How do you deal with that pressure?

COMPROMISING UNDER PEER PRESSURE

Read Samuel 15:1-31. What was Saul's failure? What reason does Saul give for the choices he made? What do you think is Saul's motivation for disobeying the Lord (v.12, 24, 30)?

Why do you think God equates disobedience with idolatry (vv.22-23)? How are Saul's actions incompatible with his confession of sin (vv.24-30)?

Think of a time you have not done all that God asked of you because of what others may think. What steps can you take to complete your obedience to God? How can working through this be an expression of God's grace in your life (applying the gospel)?

REPRESENTING CHRIST

Read Romans 15:1-7. What principles of Christ does Paul apply to the way we are to relate to one another? What is God's desire for the way His people should relate and serve together? Where do we learn these things (v.4)?

Read James 1:19-25. How can being quick to listen and slow to speak help us be slow to anger? How does reflection on God's word protect us? How does doing God's word indicate your desire to represent the Lord?

How does the way we relate to one another in Christ offer a witness to the rest of the world? What issues within the body of Christ do you find distracting you from representing Christ (serving the gospel of Christ)?