

## **People Pleasing**

### **Ready:**

"And there was a lot of discussion about Him among the crowds. Some were saying, 'He's a good man.' Others were saying, 'No on the contrary, He's deceiving the people.'" — John 7:12

### **Set**

Find a sporting event and you're guaranteed to find its most common companion—the second-guesser. Coach long enough, and you're bound to make somebody unhappy. The coaching profession, though highly rewarding, can be extremely stressful. The quicker a coach learns that you can't please everyone, the better. This is often easier said than done. So is there a secret?

Many would advise to “get thicker skin.” Thick skin is fine, but in order to avoid a smug and even arrogant attitude toward the “Monday morning quarterbacks,” let's examine some spiritual principles to help us.

First, it's true that we can't please everyone. Even Jesus, who by the way is right all the time, had secondguessers. The verse today teaches that, while some thought Jesus was good, others declared Him to be a deceiver. So how did Jesus feel about this? How did He handle such critical opposition even though He was always right? The answer lies in the fact that Jesus knew what He was sent to accomplish. “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (Jn 6:38). Jesus was focused on what His Father willed, above everyone else, even Himself (Lk 22:42).

Secondly, Jesus had a plan and kept it. His plan was to please His Father, seek the best interests of others, and act in love (Jn 15:13). As a coach, having a set of principles that is pleasing to God and carried out in love is great medicine for the hurts that often come from second-guessers. Sometimes love is tough because what people are looking for isn't love, but getting their way regardless of what's right. However if we're pleasing to our heavenly Father and truly focused loving others with the love Christ showed us, we can be at peace even when people reject us.

### **Go**

1. Is it harmful to try to please everyone?
2. Why is doing the right thing still met with some rejection?
3. How does our coaching or athletics and our lives match up with Galatians 1:10?

**Workout** Hebrews 10:5–10

**Overtime**

Father, give us delight in doing Your will, in all areas of our lives. Amen.

**Bible Reference:**

Hebrews 10



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