



Standing Tall Against the Fear of Rejection and Betrayal

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Introduction:

Campbell Morgan was one of 150 young men who sought entrance to the Wesleyan ministry in 1888. He passed the doctrinal examinations, but then faced the trial sermon. In a cavernous auditorium that could seat more than 1,000 sat three ministers and 75 others who came to listen. When Morgan stepped into the pulpit, the vast room and the searching, critical eyes caught him up short. Two weeks later Morgan's name appeared among the 105 REJECTED for the ministry that year.

Jill Morgan, his daughter-in-law, wrote in her book, [A Man of the Word](#), "He wired to his father the one word, 'Rejected,' and sat down to write in his diary: 'Very dark everything seems. Still, He knoweth best. Quickly came the reply: 'Rejected on earth. Accepted in heaven – Dad.'"

In later years, Morgan said: "God said to me, in the weeks of loneliness and darkness that followed, 'I want you to cease making plans for yourself, and let Me plan your life.'" Rejection is rarely permanent; as Morgan went on to prove. Even in this life, circumstances change, and ultimately, there is no rejection of those accepted by Christ. [Rick Thompson](#).

We began a series on fear last Sunday. This morning we are going to continue by talking about standing tall against the fear of rejection.

Fear has a paralyzing effect. When it is permitted to dominate a person's thinking, it often will paralyze that person from doing anything to make a difference, so things stay the same and don't change.

It is the people who are closest to us that have the most influence in our lives. The fear of possible rejection by our family or friends is often strong enough to keep us from doing what we know or think is right. We read in the scripture when mother and father forsake me – then the Lord will take me up. *Psalm 27:9-10*

The Fear of Rejection originates with an addiction to having others' approval. One of the big seven motivations for youth misbehavior is "*Peer Acceptance*"

What will people do for approval, to avoid rejection?

1. People will make themselves sick through hurtful behavior – anorexia or bulimia.
2. Young ladies give promiscuous favors just to be accepted.

3. People put up with spousal abuse because they don't want to be rejected or left alone.
4. Teenagers experiment with and become addicted to destructive behaviors just to be accepted by their peers.

What Does "Rejection" lead to?

1. Rejection by a parent can lead to rejection or striking out at those closest to us when we are adults.

2. Rejection by a spouse can drive someone into radical behavior, whether it is total seclusion or domestic violence.
3. Rejection by a friend can lead to addictive and destructive activity.

Personal rejection

1. Causes us to conform our lifestyle and our values to others
2. Keeps us from speaking the truth
3. Prevents us from giving and receiving love
4. Leads to isolation and loneliness
5. Keeps us from spiritual maturity
6. Silences our sharing of our faith

SO HOW DO WE STAND TALL AGAINST THE FEAR OF REJECTION and BETRAYAL?

I. Accept the fact that GOD accepts you

I have met people who have the concept of God that He stands ready to pounce on us and destroy us, that God will not accept us. But the Bible tells us that God is love. When we come to God through Jesus Christ, God accepts us. His word challenges us to change, but without condition, God accepts us.

John 6:37 – All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Know that God loves you incredibly and accepts you. God does not reject us and we will ultimately will stand before and answer to Him when it comes judgment time.

II. Seek God's Approval and Acceptance

A. God controls our eternal destiny, not man.

Matthew 10:28 says Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

B. God promotes, not man.

Psalms 75:6-7 – No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man. But it is God who judges: He brings one down, He exalts another.

C. Pleasing God brings peace with your enemies.

Proverbs 16:7 –When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

D. Being a “people pleaser” is a rejection of God.

Galatians 1:10 – Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

III. Deal with rejection

“Consider the Source” Usually rejection is of human origin...

The story of Joseph covers several chapters in Genesis. From Genesis 37-50 we read the account of the life and experiences of Joseph. We are introduced to Joseph in chapter 37 when he is 17 years old. He is the youngest of 12 sons of Jacob. Joseph had several dreams that he told to his brothers and they didn't like his dreams. He also was favored by his father Jacob and his brothers were jealous of him. So they rejected him and plotted to kill him. Reuben had a heart to rescue his brother and convinced the rest of his brothers to put Joseph in a well that was dry. While they were trying to determine how to get rid of him, a caravan came along, and they sold their brother into slavery to the Midianites, who sold him to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

If anyone in Scripture had a reason to fear rejection because of what he experienced, it was Joseph. He ended up not hating his brothers, and also he kept his faith in God.

How did he stand tall against the fear of rejection?

- He faced his fear by recognizing that God was with him and hadn't left him. – Genesis 39:2

Too often when we are rejected, we forget the fact that God loves us and hasn't rejected us. The blessing of God rested on Joseph, because he had a right attitude toward God and his brothers who had rejected and misused him.

- He faced his fear by recognizing the importance of forgiveness.

Unforgiveness is a place of bondage. People who are hurt usually end up hurting others. After being sold by his brothers into slavery and being rejected by them, Joseph came to the place of forgiveness for their actions.

Usually when we experience rejection, it comes from someone who is close to us now, or was close to us in our past. If we allow it to, it may affect how we live our life today and how we treat those closest to us. Evaluate whatever rejection you have experienced in the past in light of what God has said.

- He faced his fear by doing what was right despite the temptation to do what was wrong.

He had to live with himself, and knew what he had to do when Potiphar's wife wanted him to sleep with her. He had to face the fear of rejection again in order to do the right thing.

She rejected and lied about him, making it look like he was the one who made advances on her. As a result Joseph was imprisoned – Genesis 39:21-22. God was still with him in prison.

- He faced his fear of rejection by his brothers when the famine was happening.

The dreams he had about his brothers bowing down to him came to pass. Even though he was the most powerful man in Egypt during the famine, right under Pharaoh, still he had to face the fear that his brothers had rejected him when he was younger. Might they reject him again even though he had the power to withhold food from them or grant them food?

IV. Understand what God's Word tells us about people

A. People will let you down.

We have all suffered the disappointment of rejection at some point in our life. If the fear of rejection is permitted to dominate our life, it will be a snare to us. A snare is a trap. The trap is confining; it can lead to death.

Conclusion:

We have other examples from the Bible how people dealt with rejection. David is a prime example of how Saul rejected David's call and anointing to be the king of Israel. In spite of the way Saul rejected David, he kept the right attitude toward Saul and trusted God. He also stood tall against the fear of rejection.

Proverbs 29:25 - Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

B. People are temporary

Isaiah 51:12 – I am the Lord, the one who encourages you. Why are you afraid of mere humans? They dry up and die like the grass. *Contemporary English Version*

C. People are imperfect

Jeremiah 8:9 – The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?

V. Guard your heart

Proverbs 4:23 – Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Too often we set ourselves up for rejection when we are not careful about what we let into our lives.

A. Guard it from destructive affections and distractions

1 Peter 2:11 – Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain** from sinful desires, which **war** against your soul.

Colossians 3:1 – Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

B. Trust in God

Trust is a way of fighting against fear. Don't allow your fear of rejection from people to be transferred to God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

If David and Joseph and others in the past could stand tall against the fear of rejection, we can too. God is the same God. God accepts us. Seek His approval and acceptance. Trust God. Deal with rejection by forgiving, realize what God's word has to say about people, and guard your heart.