



Sermon Series: *Walking in Wisdom*
Sermon Title: *Addicted to Approval*
Scripture: John 5:39-44, et al
Pastor Stephen Schultze
Sunday, January 23, 2022

“Idolatry is the age-old strategy of the human heart.
The objects of worship may change over time, but the heart stays the same.”
Ed Welch

1. Craving approval is an insatiable earthly **appetite.**

Scriptures: John 5:39-44; Philippians 3:18-19; Romans 8:5-8; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:4:

2. Craving approval is rooted in misplaced **hope.**

Scriptures: Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 12:2

3. Craving approval leads to **ruin.**

Scriptures: Luke 6:26; Matthew 6:1; Romans 2:6-8; Proverbs 18:24

4. Craving approval will stifle your Gospel **witness.**

Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6; Galatians 1:10

Course Correction:

1. Walk in the **Word**.
2. Walk with the **Wise**.
3. Walk **away** from craving...again and again.

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 2:11-13

Questions to Consider:

1. *Are you controlled by anyone's approval? Who is your "audience"?*
2. *What are some of the things we hope to gain through the approval of others?*
3. *What are some of the consequences of craving approval?*
4. *How can craving approval make us ineffective in sharing the Gospel?*
5. *What course corrections do you need to make? How does God's grace lead you away from worldly passions, especially from craving approval?*