



CLIMATE CHANGE, Part 2: An Unstable Climate

INTRODUCTION

Everyone has an emotional climate. Insecurity is one of the biggest influences on that climate. Throughout life we have failures and difficult experiences, and we hear negative comments from people who are important to us. These things feed our insecurities. And we all know it isn't fun to be on the other side of an insecure person. An insecure boss is difficult to follow. An insecure spouse is difficult to love. None of us wants to be that difficult person. So how do we deal with our insecurities?

Culture tells us that self-esteem is the cure for insecurity. Scripture tells us something radically different.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Last week, Jeff challenged you to ask three people in your life, "What's it like to be on the other side of me?" Did you do it? If so, what happened?
2. What's something you're really good at? Do you do it because you love it or because it wins you acceptance from others?
3. What is the one thing you'd most like to change about your emotional climate? Why?
4. Why is it difficult for us to believe that God accepts us?
5. How would your relationships change if you stopped seeking the acceptance of others because you knew you already had God's acceptance?

MOVING FORWARD

We work for acceptance, yet we already have the acceptance of the one who matters most: God. The climate of your relationships will change when you see you as God sees you.

Write down the words of Philippians 4:13 and carry them around with you this week. Use them to help you remember whose acceptance matters most.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13