

## Who are You Trying to Please?

This football season there has been much hysteria around the public Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce romance. It is the confluence of America's most popular singer and a football star on annual Super Bowl contender, the Kansas City Chiefs. Swift has been attending Chief's football games, attracting the attention of television cameras every time Travis does anything on the field. After a play involving Kelce, the television feed immediately switches to see Taylor Swift's reaction to the play. In the skybox, she stands and cheers, often wearing a Chief's jersey. The networks want to see "how would Taylor react?" Taylor Swift is one of the most popular people on the planet at this time. Who wouldn't want to impress her?

Travis Kelce is an accomplished football player and one of the most important players for the Chiefs. Is he motivated when Taylor is watching? Does he raise his level of play? CBS Sports researched the question of whether Kelce played better when Swift was in attendance. They aired statistics on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, revealing that Kelce played better in the four games Swift attended than in the three games she was not present. Mathematically, the sample size is too small to make a conclusion. But the real question for us is: Who are *we* trying to please?



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

Seeking to please your fellow man can be self-serving if our goal is for people to admire us because of our achievements. It is God's approval we should seek. God knows our battles, and He forgives us when we fall short. God wants you to use your God-given talents to serve others, but we are to glorify God and not ourselves. *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).* If you want to have a lasting impact on someone, give God the credit for your successes.

To be fair, theirs is a very public romance broadcast on television for all to see. There is nothing wrong with cheering on a loved one, nor is there anything wrong with trying to do your best on the field of play. Kelce responded to her loyalty by attending one of her concerts in Buenos Aires on a recent bye week for his team. Travis and Taylor are doing what loved ones do to show their commitment to each other. The media attention points to a faith lesson for us: do we try to impress others to prove how "good" we are instead of taking the opportunity to show how good our God is? What is your motivation – personal recognition or pointing to God? Is it all about us or all about God? Are we serving ourselves, or are we serving God?

**Questions:** Who are you trying to please? Are you seeking to serve God or just make yourself look good in front of others?

**Closing Prayer:** Most gracious, heavenly Father. We pray that our motivation is to genuinely serve You and not for personal gain. We pray that others will understand we wish to glorify You. Amen.