

The Power of “They”

A Study in the Sway of Public Persuasion

April 7th, 2013

The Seven Most-Common Pressure Chambers

1. Political Pressure
2. Social Pressure
3. Peer Pressure
4. Church Pressure
5. Family Pressure
6. Parental Pressure
7. Financial Pressure

The Seven Most-Common Results of the Pressure Chambers

1. Political Pressure - Corruption
2. Social Pressure - Duplicity
3. Peer Pressure - Promiscuity
4. Church Pressure - Pharisaism
5. Family Pressure - Men-pleasing

6. Parental Pressure - Compromise

7. Financial Pressure - Anxiety

The Sway of the Pharisees

The Fear of Man

The fear of man brings a snare: but whoso puts his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 29:25

Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

Matthew 15:12

His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now sees, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spoke his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

John 9:20-22

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: **For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**

John 12:42-43

The Shocking Commission

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and

children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple . . . whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple . . . No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and **mammon**.

Luke 14:25-26,33; 16:13

Mamōnas - Maw-mō-nahs

The Object of Earthly Trust, The Counterfeit Savior, That which is perceived to save, The Treasure

Nardos - nard, the head or spike of a fragrant East Indian plant belonging to the genus Valerianna, which yields a juice of delicious odor which the ancients used (either pure or mixed) in the preparation of a most precious ointment

Pistikos - that which is relied upon, that which is trusted in, the object of one's faith

After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people. And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He (Jesus) sat at the table, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of **spikenard (Pistikos + Nardos)** very precious; and she broke the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever you will you may do them good: but me you have not always.

She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her. And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Mark 14:1-10

The Fixation of the Soul

The “They” which defines every action

1. Political Advantage - just think what “they” will think!
2. Social Advancement - just think what “they” will think!
3. Peer Acceptance - just think what “they” will think!
4. Church Approval - just think what “they” will think!
5. Family Support - just think what “they” will think!
6. Parental Applause - just think what “they” will think!
7. Financial Gain - just think what “they” will think!

The True Treasure

That which should define every action

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hides, and for joy thereof goeth and sells all that he has, and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

The Essence of the Gospel

Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

Mark 14:9

Pouring out the Precious Thing

We must hate the **Mamōnas**

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and **Mamōnas**.

Luke 16:13

The Ordnung

The right way; the correct order; the appropriate behavior; the spoken and unspoken expectations of the Group. The voice in your head. What “They” think.

The **Ordnung** is a set of rules for Amish, Old Order Mennonite, and Conservative Mennonite living. Ordnung is the German word for order, discipline, rule, arrangement, organization, or system. Because the Amish have no central church government, each assembly is autonomous and is its own governing authority. Thus, every local church maintains an individual set of rules, adhering to its own Ordnung, which may vary from district to district as each community administers its own guidelines. An Amish man noted - *The order is not written down. The people just know it, that's all.* Rather than a packet or rules to memorize, the Ordnung is the understood behavior by which the Amish are expected to live. In the same way that the rules of grammar are learned by children, so the Ordnung, the grammar of order, is learned by Amish youth.

The Classic Quotes about “They”

- But what would “They” say?
- But, “They” won’t like it!
- But, “They” won’t approve!
- But, “They” will never go for this!

My Own Personal “They”

The Infectious Power of Emotional InDebtedness

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 22:7

Do I Still Have a “They”?

“They” and Idolatry

[Aaron said to Moses] . . . They said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: . . .

Exodus 32:23a

The Odd Mixture of Our Modern Day

Being God’s people the World’s Way

So while these nations feared the LORD, they also served their idols;

2 Kings 17:41

Men-Pleasers

Anthrōpareskos - Awn-throw-para-skaws

studying to please man, courting the favor of men

. . . not with eye-service, **as men-pleasers**, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart . . .

Ephesians 6:6

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, **as men-pleasers**, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Colossians 3:22

For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, **not as pleasing men**, but God who tests our hearts. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness--God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

For do I now persuade men, or God? Or **do I seek to please men?** For if I still pleased men, I would not be a **bondservant of Christ**. But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I

neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:10-12

Theos-pareskos - Thay-Aws-para-skaws

Choosing to please God over man - considering obedience to God the primary virtue

A Higher Ordnung

So they (the rulers, elders, and scribes) called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, **Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:18-20

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us! But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

Acts 5:27-29

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, **to be well pleasing to Him.**

2 Corinthians 5:9

The Heavenly “They”

The Sixty-Six that always have something to say on the matter; a study in the power of Biblical persuasion

Being Free of the Sway of an Earthly“They” But Respecting the Ordnung

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18

Three Challenging Ordnungs

1. The Denomination
2. The Husband
3. The Socio-Political System

Beware: Believing Salvation is found in Blindly Following the Ordnung

Respecting the Ordnung: *The Heavenly Rule of Thumb*

As long as I am not pitted against the Word of God or asked to disobey the clear Word of God, I will submit, prove orderly, respectful, and honorable.

Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, **and was subject to them**, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:51

Let every soul be subject to the governing **authorities**. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the

authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:1-2

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work . . .

Titus 3:1

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

1 Peter 2:13-17

Respecting the Priest

Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.

Deuteronomy 17:12

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us! But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

Acts 5:27-29

There is a Time to Disobey: *The Heavenly Rule of Thumb*

If the choice is between obeying God or obeying man - God must be obeyed, even though such obedience would be construed as unsubmitive, disorderly, disrespectful towards the Ordnung. And even though such obedience may lead to external punishments and sufferings.

The Proper Response to the Improper Request

Though you cannot obey the request, your bearing, in disobeying is still the bearing of Jesus Christ. In your disobedience to the unhealthy ordnung, you still must maintain love, respect, gentleness, humility, and honor in your behavior and action. Just because someone is demanding your soul into compromise, does not mean you should compromise the attitude and bearing of Christ that you carry. You must refuse them with a nobility of soul intact, with love and forgiveness in your tone, and with gentleness and honor in your manner.

The Voice of the Religious

And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she broke the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, **Why was this waste of the ointment made? . . .**

Mark 14:3-4

The Voice of Jesus

And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me . . . Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her. And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Mark 14:6, 9-10

The Voice of Family

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Luke 10:38-40

The Voice of Jesus

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:41-42

The Fear of God

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil . . . Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:

Proverbs 8:13a, Psalm 97:10a

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and **Mamōnas**.

Luke 16:13

For they (the Pharisees) loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 12:43

For they (the true Christians) loved the praise of God more than the praise of men.