**Drumming to a Different Beat *by Kris Swiatocho***

*A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd. —Max Lucado*  
Many years ago, I struggled with being a people pleaser. Often my value, my identity was wrapped up in what others thought. And while we should want to do our best and serve others, it can’t be out of a personal need to gain value. It has to be out of the overflowing love of the Lord. When you accept the Lord as your Saviour, your identity changes. You are not only his child but precious and beautiful. You are also his workmanship. God is the one who gives you your value, and it’s in Him. God is the one who gives you your gifts and talents to be used in the body of Christ. God is the one to whom we should please, not out of obligation but out of love, out of what his death did on the cross for you.

*Galatians 1: 10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Max Lucado says, “The man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.” So, what does this mean?

1. As someone lost, it means leaving the old life, the old crowd, the old ways of doing things, and following Christ, who will make you a new person, new birth, and new identity.  
     
   *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*
2. For someone saved, it’s choosing to love God more than anything or anyone else. It means prioritizing that love in our choices, actions, and friendships.   
     
   *Luke 10: 27 And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”*
3. As a leader, you will not always please those in your ministry. While we may all believe in the same God, the same Jesus who died for us on the cross, our approach to leading ministry and our methods may vary. You have to remind folks, just like Nehemiah, that you are following the Lord’s lead, the Holy Spirit versus man.   
     
   *Nehemiah 2:18**And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me. So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they settheir hands to this good work.*

One of the things I always share with folks when I start a new ministry, go on staff, or contract with a church is: We are going to try some new things. Some things will work, and some will not. I will be the first to say when it hasn’t worked. Some things you will not like and your first inclination to grumble, complain and/or quit. But please, don’t do this. Just wait; give me a chance to lead you well. Give the new idea and direction a chance. Hopefully, in prayer and unity, we can do this together. So, who is with me?

*1 Peter 3:18 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*

Sometimes being in leadership, you can feel very alone. But I would rather be alone with Jesus than follow the wrong drum in a group.

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• [www.TheSinglesNetwork.org](http://www.TheSinglesNetwork.org)

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