

Attraction and Rejection (Part 1)

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1.0 Introduction

Social truths, in context of several individuals, form what we call a *social acceptance*. As the phrase implies, it has to do with a social agreement between two or more individuals. Social acceptance means that other people have to like you, respect you, approve you and in general regard you in ways that will lead them to include you in their groups and relationship. Being socially acceptable is a big thing nowadays. It seems that this has always been the case because fitting in with the right people has always been an important part of life for many centuries. Especially in the France of the eighteen hundreds social acceptability was a pivotal part of life. In a time when appearances and classes held so much sway, to be socially unacceptable was a terrible thing to be.

The need for social acceptance and approval. It is a very big force in this world. It accounts for a great deal of what people do and why they do it. Like what?

- Children (both young children and teenagers) do a great many things out of the desire to be accepted by their peers. It is called "peer pressure". They swear, tell dirty stories, smoke cigarettes, use drugs, drink alcohol, engage in premarital sex, steal, commit acts of vandalism, and do many other things just to be accepted by those whose friendship they value. Peer pressure even dictates the kind of clothes they must wear and the way their hair must be cut.
- Adults do many things out of the desire for the acceptance and approval of their peers. They swear, drink, smoke, use drugs, tell dirty stories, etc. just to be one of the gang --- just to be accepted. They follow the latest fads, wear the latest fashion in clothing, and cut their hair according to the latest cut. Some even choose their ideas and opinions

according to the latest fashion. And it is all done for the regard, acceptance and approval of others.

From all this we see that the need for social acceptance. If we won't follow along and go his way we suffer the consequences. If we won't conform to the perverse mind of the crowd, go along with it, we will be rejected, ostracized, and ridiculed. The choice is either to follow our conscience, to follow what we down deep in our heart know is right, or to follow the crowd. We have to decide. This brings strong pressure to bear to influence our choice. In no age group is it popular to be "too straight" --- people who are "too straight" can expect to be rejected, scorned and made fun of. Most people, in one way or another, give in to this inexorable force and go along. Hence, in this topic we will emphasize about the need to belong, attraction and rejection.

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