

## The **TRAP** of Flattery

In his closing remarks, Paul believed that it was vital to talk about the destructive power of flattery. The message of Romans can be hurt and hindered by this sin. That is why it is paramount for us to discern when others flatter us and how to make sure we speak genuinely.

FLATTERY is \_\_\_\_\_ speech used to \_\_\_\_\_  
people for selfish \_\_\_\_\_.

FLATTERY is \_\_\_\_\_ someone to their face  
but \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ behind their back.

FLATTERY works best on \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ people-pleasers.

## **CRUSHING** Flattery

The first prophecy about the Messiah promises that "He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15). How does Paul tell us to crush flattery and why is God's peace vital to this process?

FLATTERY is crushed when we're \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ and we have a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

The serpent's strategy is to \_\_\_\_\_ up \_\_\_\_\_,  
but the prince of peace creates \_\_\_\_\_.

# Discussion Questions

## Getting Started

1. Can you tell when someone is flattering you? What are some of the key signs to look for when you feel like you are subtly being persuaded by someone? Do you ever feel like you are in “relational debt” with someone after talking with them?

## Digging Deeper

2. Why is it better to receive a rebuke from a friend than a compliment from someone who is known to be habitually against you (Proverbs 27:6; 28:23)? How can you appreciate the people in your life that are open and honest with you?
3. “His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart” (Psalm 55:21). There is nothing wrong with having the ability to speak well, but what should be in a person’s heart instead of war?
4. In what ways is flattery like setting a trap (Jeremiah 9:8; Proverbs 29:5; Psalm 12:1-4)? How can you avoid these “relational nets” that certain people place in front of you?

## Applying the Word to Life

5. Mediate on Job’s plan to battle against flattery (Job 32:21-22). How can you make sure you never show any favoritism to those who can set you up for success more than others? In what ways will God “take us away” if we are skilled in flattery?
6. Whenever the Bible is preached, make sure your ears are not being tickled and flattery is absent (1 Thess 2:5-6; 2 Tim 4:3-4). If you get offended instead of feeling conviction by something that was said on the stage, then you might have a desire to be flattered instead of challenged.