

# Self Examination

## Introduction

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 **Examine yourselves** as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

**(Disqualified: Used as "reprobate" - that which will not stand the trial)**

**1. This scripture along with others show the importance of self-examination.**

**A. When partaking of the Lord's Supper:**

1 Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1 John 3:18-22 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, **but in deed and in truth**. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight**.

**1) "To examine" in our text employs the present tense. This is continuous activity --- trying of ourselves not others!**

## Why Should We Examine Ourselves?

### 1. To ensure that we are "in the faith."

#### A. This means that we are faithful – **abiding in the doctrine.**

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and **to the doctrine**. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

#### B. There is always the ever present danger of drifting.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

#### 1) A lack of faith results in a drifting away from God.

**Romans 10:17**

#### a. A lack of reading = a lack of faith = fall away.

#### C. It is possible to know our standing before almighty God. To have an uncertainty in this matter is inexcusable.

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for **I know** whom I have believed **and am persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

## **2. To determine if Jesus Christ is in us.**

### **A. Christ dwells in EVERY child of God.**

Romans 8:10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## **3. To determine if we are a reprobate “not standing the test.”**

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

## **4. To determine if we really know ourselves.**

### **A. Basking in the state of self-approval causes us to minimize our faults while magnifying faults of others.**

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2 Corinthians 10:18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

### **B. Our works will be tried by fire.**

#### **1 Corinthians 3:13**

#### **1) Certainly we are to try others but make sure that our words and actions will try the test of God.**

Galatians 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

## What Standard Should We Examine Ourselves?

### 1. Not by our own estimates.

Galatians 6:3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, **he deceives himself.**

- A. **Some profess to be wise but are fools (Romans 1:22).**
- B. **Sometimes we think we know but in fact we really don't.**  
**1 Corinthians 8:2**
- C. **We should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought.**

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,** but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

### 2. Not by the estimate of others.

- A. **Friends are prejudiced in our favor and our enemies against us.**

### 3. We must try ourselves by the word of God!

- A. **Standards of right and wrong are worthless unless applied.**

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, **these are sons of God.**

**In a Sincere Effort to Examine Ourselves, We Should Ask:****1. Am I in the faith?**

**A. I am not if I have never entered it (Galatians 3:26-27). Or having entered it, I have departed from it (1 Timothy 1:19).**

**2. Is Christ in me?**

**A. If so, I have a working faith (Ephesians 3:17), God's Word dwells in me (Ephesians 5:19), My mind is set on things above (Colossians 3:1-2), and I am a transformed individual (Romans 12:1-2).**

**3. Am I pure in heart and life?**

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**4. Do I really have a loving heart?**

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

**5. Am I really humble?**

**A. Do I really consider my own mote (Matthew 7:3)?**

**B. Do I consider others better than myself (Philippians 2:3)?**

**C. Am I filled with self-righteousness (parable of the tax collector and heathen)**

Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

**D. Do I sit in judgment on others and play God?****Matthew 7:1-5****6. Do I really hate sin?**

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, **I myself should become disqualified.**

**7. Do I use God's gift of speech to bless or curse? Are we a peacemaker or peace breaker?**

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

**8. What about my hearing? Am I eager to hear good news or bad news? Do I repeat gossip or try and start some gossip?****9. Do I love the body, the church?****A. Do I strive to keep the unity, support the assemblies, contribute?****10. Do I really believe that I will be judged?**

Romans 14:12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

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## Conclusion

1. **Before we can ever do what is right we must first know our real condition before God.**
2. **What we find in our self-examination may be gratifying or regrettable. The latter calls for a turn back to God.**
3. **You are either approved or disapproved before God.**

**Invitation**

**Place**

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 Richard Thetford, April 1994 – Reworked June 2024 (Taken from "Preaching the Word" by Jimmy Tuten)