

Be Encouraged

How to Examine Yourself

7/15/2001

Reading: [1 John 2:15-17](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 13:1-6](#)

Introduction:

1. Events that cause us to take a good look at ourselves:
 - a. death of a close friend or loved one
 - b. Near-death experience
 - c. Changes in life: divorce, moving, marriage
2. [2 Corinthians 13:1-6](#)
 - a. Examine yourself.
 - b. [1 Corinthians 11](#)—Also said in reference to the Lord's Supper
3. HOW do we examine ourselves?

#1 Examine your relationship with God.

A. What is the nature of our relationship with God?

1. Is it a true and total surrender of our will to the sovereign will of God?
2. Have we exchanged our agenda for His agenda?
3. [Luke 22:42](#)—"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

B. Is it solely for the benefits?

1. He gives joy, peace, healing in life, glue for a marriage, the promise of heaven.
2. Some never cross over into a relationship of total commitment.
3. Is this the reason for so many lukewarm Christians?
4. What can God do for me? What can I get out of Christianity?

C. Do you make decisions without regard to God's will in your life?

1. Remember James' statement? [James 4:15](#)—"If the Lord wills..."
2. Let your relationship with God be one where only He rules.

D. Consider How Committed God is to you:

1. Jesus died not only for you to be saved and not only for you to receive the benefits of his death, but he died to have complete rule over you.
2. [Romans 14:9](#)—For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, *that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*

#2 Examine your relationship with others.

A. What is the nature of our relationship with others?

1. Is it that of submission or selfish contentment?
2. "self-centered" refers to those who think only of themselves, their own needs, their own wants. A mind which is centered on pleasing self!
3. Does Christ live in the heart of that kind of person? [v. 5](#)

B. Those in Christ have J-O-Y

1. **J**esus, **O**thers and **Y**ou! **J-O-Y**
2. [Philippians 2:3](#)—Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem *others better than himself.*
3. [Romans 12:10](#)—Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor *giving preference to one another*
4. Those in Christ don't ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Like Cain)
5. Those in Christ don't ask, "Who is my neighbor?" (Like the Lawyer)
6. Those in Christ ask, "How may I help you?"

C. God is committed to building a loving family

1. [Matthew 5:23-24](#)—"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. *First be reconciled to your brother,* and then come and offer your gift.
2. Are you making decisions without consideration of others?

#3 Examine your relationship with the church

A. What is this thing we call the church?

1. The church is the family of God
2. The church is those who have been saved
3. The church is those who have been transformed, those who have been called out of the world, living in community with one another.
4. The church meets together to worship, the church is accountable to one another, and the church reaches out to the unsaved.

B. Why is it important to be committed to the church?

1. Because God is so committed to the church He gave His Son. [Ephesians 5:25](#)
2. Because the church has power over death & hell itself [Matthew 16:18](#)
3. Because the church **IS** the saved: [Ephesians 5:23](#); [Colossians 1:18](#)
 - a. Only the saved will go to heaven!
 - b. Only the church will be saved!
 - c. Only those in Christ are in the church!

C. Are you as committed to the Church as Jesus was and is?

1. If not, Jesus is not in you and you are disqualified.
2. Get qualified, Come to Jesus HE will save you!
3. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved!