

Series: Words of Counsel and Correction

EXAMINE YOURSELVES (PT 2)

2 CORINTHIANS 13

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:5

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⁵ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Introduction:

Last week we began to look at this passage and we considered:

Three Groups of People

The Confused; The Counterfeit; and The Confident Christian

We also considered:

Three Key Phrases

Examine Yourselves; Prove Your Own selves; and Except Ye Be Reprobates.

We then closed by looking at some wrong or faulty test that people often use to test their relationship and fellowship with the Lord.

This evening I want us to consider the correct test to use to examine ourselves.

Let me say again; we are not saved by our works.

Salvation cannot be earned, but salvation will change our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

So let's consider this evening how to rightly examine ourselves.

Not some things that should be considered:

1. LOVE FOR GOD

An unsaved person has no love for God; in fact, he is in rebellion against God.

Note:

Romans 8:7

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

- A person can be outwardly religious but still have no real love for God.

The Jewish religious leaders were zealous in Judaism.

They knew the Old Testament backwards and forwards.

Yet, in spite of all that, they were unsaved and had no genuine love for God.

John 5:39-42

³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

⁴⁰ And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

⁴¹ I receive not honour from men. ⁴² But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

Remember what the Lord stated was the greatest commandment:

Matthew 22:36-37

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

When we are saved, God places within us a great love for Him.

Romans 5:5

⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

1 John 4:19

¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us.

1 Corinthians 8:3

³ But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

Salvation is evidenced by a love for God, His nature, His holiness, His glory, His Word, and His will.

When we love someone, we want to be near them, to spend time with them, and when we are apart from them we long for the time that we will be able to be together again.

A hunger for God is evidence of our love for Him.

Psalms 42:1-2

¹ As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. ² My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

When we get saved, we receive a love for God that evidences itself in longing for Him; unsaved people don't have that.

Not only should we examine ourselves by considering our love for God but also our:

2. LOVE FOR THE WORD OF GOD

An unsaved person has NO love for the Word of God because:

- It condemns them to an eternity without hope in Hell.

John 3:18

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The Word of God not only Condemns but also:

- They Cannot Understand the Word of God

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The unsaved have no love for God's Word.

However, when we are saved, God puts within us a desire to know Him through His Word.

- God has revealed Himself to us through the Scriptures.
- As we read and obey the Word of God we know Him and find assurance of our salvation.

This principle found over and over in His Word.

Psalm 119:97

⁹⁷ O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

John 14:15

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1 John 2:3

³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 3:24

²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Do we love the Bible?

- I didn't ask if we carried a Bible but if we loved it.
- Do we delight in reading and studying it?
- Do we rejoice in its promises?
- Are we eager to hear it taught and proclaimed?
- Are we obedient to the Word?
- It is not just a love for the God's Word but a willingness to obey it that marks the true believer.

Not only should we examine ourselves by considering our love for God and His Word but also our:

3. OUR LOVE FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

Ephesians 5:25

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Lost people do not want to come to church.

- Many will scoff at those who attend.
- They will make all sorts of excuses as to why they don't attend.

- They will put everything else ahead of this in their lives.

Note:

Hebrews 10:25

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Believers understand the value and benefit of being an active part of a local church.

Remember:

- The church isn't merely a building or an institution.
- The church is people, redeemed people who belong to God.
- We cannot be in love with God without being in love with His family.

I wonder about people who claim to be Christians but have no desire to take part in the church.

Note:

1 John 3:14

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Close:

These are not the only test to use to examine ourselves but these three are important.

Paul challenged us to examine ourselves, but we must use the proper criteria to do a proper examination! For us to grow in our life in Christ, we must be confident that we are 'in the faith'! Are you confident tonight? Are you growing in your walk with Him?