

## “EXAMINE YOURSELVES”

### INTRODUCTION

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:5**

The necessity of self-examination must not be overlooked.

**B.** Its medical importance is obvious. How can its spiritual importance be overlooked?

### I. “EXAMINE YOURSELVES” IN ORDER TO CRITICIZE

**A. Matthew 7:1-5**

1. You’ve heard the old adage, “Before criticizing a man, walk a mile in his shoes.” That way, when you criticize him, you’re a mile away from him, and you have his shoes! All kidding aside, before we criticize, we must first sympathize. And, the only effective means whereby one may sympathize with another is to look first at the self.

2. With these words, Jesus did not forbid criticism. After all, how could it be wrong to remove a splinter from another’s eye? The scriptures plainly reveal the necessity of constructive criticism.

**a. Proverbs 10:17**

Whether one is on the way or gone astray depends on how he receives correction.

**b. Proverbs 12:1**

Whether one is wise or stupid depends on how he receives correction.

3. It is not that we must avoid criticism, but that we must look first at ourselves.

**B. Matthew 23:3; Romans 2:21-24**

There must be consistency between our words and our conduct. Hypocrisy is what is forbidden.

**C. Galatians 6:1**

The manner in which we must correct others is a gentle one, recognizing our own susceptibility to sin.

**II. “EXAMINE YOURSELVES” IN ORDER TO LEAD**

**A. Acts 20:28**

So as to be qualified in overseeing the flock, elders must take heed to themselves.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:1-7**

Any man who is to be considered for the work of an elder must examine himself in light of the qualifications clearly set forth.

**C. James 3:1**

There is a grave responsibility in all positions of leadership and influence.

**III. “EXAMINE YOURSELVES” IN ORDER TO EAT THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:23-29**

1. A prerequisite to proper participation in the Lord’s Supper is self-examination (28).
2. Failure to search your own heart in preparation of this memorial will incur the judgment of God because the Lord’s body is not discerned (29).
  - a. The significance of this Supper is that it is a proclamation of the Lord’s death (26).
  - b. The bread and the cup stand as emblems of Christ’s body and blood (23-25).
3. Proper personal examination will rule out distracting thoughts, such as:
  - a. Getting the contribution ready.
  - b. Deciding where to eat lunch.
  - c. Admiring the baby in the next pew.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:31**

We can avoid God's judgment on us, in this matter, if we will first judge ourselves.

**IV. "EXAMINE YOURSELVES" IN ORDER TO REJOICE**

**A. Galatians 6:4-5**

In order to rejoice, one must be willing to examine his own work.

**B. Philippians 2:12-13**

Though salvation comes from God in Christ, it cannot be attained apart from the individual's effort.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> John 8**

In order to gain the reward, where true joy is, we must look first to ourselves.

**CONCLUSION**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:12**

Constantly examine and compare yourself to the divine standard.

**B. Psalm 119:59; Lamentations 3:40**

When you examine yourself, do you see the need to repent?