

Scripture: Ten Commandments (Deut. 5) – 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 2 Cor. 13:5
Singing: 10:1, 3 – 166:2 – 64:1-3 – 384:1, 5 – 161:3-5

SELF-EXAMINATION
I. The purposes II. The focuses

I. The various purposes of self-examination

A. To unmask the hypocrite

1. Hypocrites **neglect** deep and personal self-examination
2. God's warnings to hypocrites: 1 John 2:3-6; 15; 1Cor. 11:27, 29

B. To prevent self-deception in the self-righteous or ignorant

1. Self-righteous and ignorant **misinterpret** self-examination: Luke 18:19;
Rev. 3:17

2. Self-examination must be of the heart (Matthew 5:20; 3-9)

C. To lead backsliding believers to repentance: 1 Cor. 11:17-22

1. Paul did not question their salvation (1 Cor. 1:2-4) but their sanctification
2. What were their sins?
 - a. v18: *divisions*
 - b. v19: *heresies*
 - c. v20ff: *shameful behavior around Lord's Supper*
3. By living in these sins, they turned the Lord's Supper *against* them (29-34)

D. To strengthen joy and depth of spiritual life in God's children: 2 Cor. 13:5

1. Many of God's true children **misunderstand** the call to self-examination
2. God's intention in self-examination is to strengthen assurance of salvation

II. The focuses of self-examination

A. According to 1 Cor. 11: *Am I using the Lord's Supper 'unworthily?'* (27-29)

1. Unworthily is not referring to *whether we are worthy – unworthy*
2. Unworthily is connected to *living in an unworthy way as a child of God*

B. According to 2 Cor. 13:5: *Am I living in the faith?*

1. This is not asking *about the condition or the exercises* of faith

2. This is also not asking *about the conditions of state of Christian graces*

3. This searches whether my trust is resting alone on Jesus Christ (5b)

Conclude: Do you see the great benefits of *self-examination*?

A. It will keep us aware of our spiritual poverty and need for God's grace

B. It will keep our gaze fixed outside of ourselves upon Jesus Christ

C. It will keep us striving to express our thankfulness to God in holy living