

The Christian's Attitude Toward Self

Matthew 16:21-28

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Mt. 16:24

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

2 Corinthians 13:5

5 Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed ye be reprobate.

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The Christian should regard self as his greatest enemy.

- A. Greater than Satan and this world, for these must have the cooperation of self to conquer anyone. James 4:7; 1 John 5:4
- B. Self is the only thing that can separate the Christian from God. Romans 8:31-39; John 10:27-29.

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- We must learn to control ourselves.
cf. 1 Corinthians 9:27.
- Self control must be added to our faith.
2 Peter 1:6.

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➤ SELF EXAMINATION MUST BE PERSONAL.

- Each person will be responsible for his own sins.
Ezek. 18:20

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- Judgment is personal. 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12; cf. John 21:21
- The question is not:
 - “Am I physically strong?” 1 Timothy 4:8
 - “Am I intellectually brilliant?” cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18ff
 - “Am I popular among men?” Galatians 1:10
- But the question is, “Am I in the faith? Am I faithful to God?” This is the question of all questions.
cf. Matthew 25:31-32

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➤ SELF EXAMINATION MUST BE BY THE RIGHT STANDARD.

- One cannot examine himself by the standards and doctrines of men. Isaiah 55:8-9; 1 Corinthians 1:18ff
- Foolish to trust feelings. Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; Luke 16:14-15; Luke 18:9

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- Cannot examine our selves by others. cf. 2 Corinthians 10:12
- The standard by which we examine ourselves should be the high and infallible word of God. John 12:48

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➤ THE EXAMINATION MUST BE THOROUGH.

- Whether you are in the faith is not to be assumed, but proven.
- Psalms 139:23-24; cf. Psalms 19:7-14

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- We must grow. Hebrews 5:11-6:1; Ephesians 4:14
- Happiness is found in faithfulness. Ecclesiastes 12:13
- We must strive to go on to perfection. James 1:4; Philippians 3:14

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➤ SELF EXAMINATION MUST BE HONEST.

- Cannot be biased in favor of self. cf. Numbers 32:23
- Honesty necessary to righteousness. James 5:16
- Forgiveness obtained in obedience. 1 John 1:8-10
- *Proverbs 28:13-14, "He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy. Happy is the man that feareth alway; But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief."*

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• THE EXAMINATION MUST BE CONTINUOUS.

- Paul exercised discipline regularly. 1 Corinthians 9:27
- Must look into the perfect law and DO. James 1:25
- When we find sin, we must confess it. 1 John 1:7
- Crown of life promised to the faithful. Revelation 2:10

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- Self examination:
 - Personal
 - Right Standard
 - Thorough
 - Honest
 - Continuous