

# Who am I, really?

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 13:5-14.

B. Paul has tried many things to change the Corinthians attitude, but little is left besides public exposure.

## II. Paul beckons his readers to examine themselves to see whether Jesus Christ is in them.

A. All wrong behavior leads at last to this question.

B. It is a good idea for Christians to examine themselves.

C. What makes a Christian is whether Christ is in a person.

D. There will be inescapable evidence that Christ dwells in someone.

1. There is an inner witness.

a. This can be a sense of identity with the Father.

b. Our spirits will cry out to the Father.

c. God is no longer seen as a judge but a loving Father.

2. There is a sense of peace. (Romans 5)

a. The war with God is over.

b. The work of Christ has ended the conflict.

c. We have a clear conscience and a sense of destiny.

3. There is a feeling that the Bible is an important and essential book, and there is a hunger to know it.

E. The outer change.

1. Things such as premarital sex are seen as wrong and hateful even if the Christian still struggles.

2. Attitudes about lying and stealing are changed.

F. Sometimes, people fall back into old habits, which raise the question whether someone is actually a Christian.

1. We are to examine ourselves—others cannot.
2. We must ask how we feel about a certain behavior.
3. It is what one thinks about himself that tells how he is going to act.

III. Answering the question about where one is at with regard to self-examination will reveal the status of Paul's apostleship.

- A. Paul wants chiefly that the Corinthians would return to holiness.
- B. Paul makes clear that true authority in the church is not intended to destroy but to build people up.
  1. Discipline is a last resort.
  2. If discipline is required, it ought to occur gradually. (Matthew 18)

IV. Paul appeals for mutual support among the brothers.

**Application questions:**

1. What circumstances ought one to ask another Christian to examine himself? When should one not do this?

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2. Which sign of having Christ in a person resonates the most with you? Why?

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3. What is true authority like? Why does the world fail to wield this kind of authority?

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