

Here's Looking at Me

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. 6. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.” 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

One of the hardest things for us to do is to look at ourselves honestly. We'd like to think that we don't have too many faults of bad traits. We seem to have an inborn defense mechanism that prevents us from being completely honest with ourselves which all makes self improvement that much more difficult. But in the preceding verse, the bible says that we are to examine ourselves, that's honestly looking at the measure of faith that we possess. It also goes on to say that we should test ourselves, give ourselves spiritual challenges which will make us grow and become spiritually stronger. Why is this important? Because Jesus Christ is a part of us and we're to live for Him everyday. Just as the athlete in the ball game or the race, we want to play by the rules and don't want to be disqualified from the game (1 Corinthians 9:27). Living a good, busy, faithful, trusting, loving, Christian life will keep us in the running with the Good Lord right by our side.

Every day we should look into the mirror of God's Word, concentrating on our own personal ability (or inability) to look at ourselves and see ourselves just as God sees us. ~Maud church of Christ

“Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (Matt. 7:1-5)

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

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Minister:

Attendance 07/18: 40 | Budget \$2484.00 | Contribution: 07/18: \$2402.00

July 25, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



How Do I Know I Really Love God? (Part 2)

We continue the idea of the magazine quiz. What can these questions reveal about my love and devotion to God? You are probably not taking this quiz with a group of friends. However, each of us should take a moment to evaluate our commitment to God.

Quiz, how do I know I really love God?

6. Do I seek to please Him?

This is something that starts with faith (Heb. 11:6). We should make it our “aim” to please the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9). If we love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15).

7. Do I love those that are close to Him?

It is hard to love someone and not those with whom they associate. The same is true with God. “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21).

8. Am I divided in my devotion?

And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment” (Matt. 22:37-38). Just as you can't divide heart, soul and mind, there should be no division in our devotion (Matt. 6:24).

9. Am I willing to make sacrifices?

It is hard to maintain a relationship if we are not willing to do for others what they do for us. It quickly becomes a one-sided relationship. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9). He gave everything. Are we willing to do the same? “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13; cf. Eph. 5:25)

10. Am I willing to make this a lifelong commitment?

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

The Bible makes it very plain. Our devotion to God should be unwavering. This quiz format may have been helpful in turning the perspective inward and examining our love. ~Josh Blackmer

Keep These Dates in Mind

July 11 – Potluck
 July 17 – Memorial for Marilyn Davis

Please let Lynette Jones know about upcoming events, prayer requests or birthdays she hasn't included so she can include them in the bulletin.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Debbie Bolt 8/8 Danny Mendoza 8/13 Clarence & Melinda Botts 8/13 Ron & Ila Stephens 8/13 Maddison Reeser 8/18 Merry Bunker 8/22 Harvey & Lynette Jones 8/25	Harvey & Lynette Jones 8/25 Eddie Petross 8/28 Bonnie Johnson 8/28
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Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday a – 1 Samuel Wed p – Obadiah	Young Adults class- Teen Room (led by Danny Mendoza)	Ladies Class (Contact Sandi Gray for information)
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Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce Michael Stimson, Jim Preston



I haven't heard of any that are sick. Let's keep those in our prayers whom we know about individually who are in need of prayers and let's give thanks for those who have recovered from their illnesses and have returned to worship and fellowship with us.

**In Our Prayers**

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:1-7)

Our Ministries**Mountain States Children's Home**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

The Conclusion of the Whole Matter

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon tells us how he set out to determine man's purpose in living: *“And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised” (Ecclesiastes 1:13).* To his credit, he takes time to reflect upon the question: *“Why am I here?”* Throughout the remainder of the book, he describes the different ways in which he tried to find happiness apart from God. He attempted to find meaning in life by building great works, seeking pleasures, and accumulating wealth. (Ecclesiastes 2:4-11). However, these things ultimately brought him no sense of meaning or happiness to his life because he realizes that, like all of us, he going to face death and cannot take these things with him. It is vanity to seek after such things (Ecclesiastes 3:19-20).

Death is coming. It is an appointment that cannot be avoided no matter how much we may not want to think about it (Hebrews 9:27). Knowing our own deaths are coming, however, has the positive benefit of causing us to contemplate how we should be living our lives upon this earth (Ecclesiastes 7:1-4). It causes us to take a more serious look at our lives on earth as we consider: *“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).*

As the opening verses above indicate, Solomon's conclusion to the purpose of life is very simple: *“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).* You may be thinking, *“That is an awfully simplistic view of life!”* This is just the point! Life really is simple! We tend to make life so much more complicated than it has to be. We have a tendency to go out and elevate things such as careers, wealth, and pleasures and make them the major priority in our lives when they should not be. As a result, we bring a lot of misery upon ourselves as we pull ourselves apart trying to go in a bunch of different directions at once and weighing our hearts down with a lot of worthless worries. Solomon said, *“Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes” (Ecclesiastes 7:29).* We need to focus on just one main goal in life instead of pursuing a lot of “vain” things. We should live life holding God in reverence and striving to walk within the boundaries of His law and everything else in life will fall into its proper place.

As Solomon concludes the whole matter regarding purpose and meaning in one's life, he urges young people to, *“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Ecclesiastes 12:1).* Live a long a prosperous life with meaning and purpose by serving God. Don't waste your years “sowing your wild oats” and end up regretting that you wasted so much of your life following after “vanity”.

Today, rejoice that God has given you purpose for living. You don't have to search out what our purpose is in life. He has told us: *“Fear God and keep his commandments” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).* Today, strive to hold God in the highest reverence and be content living within the boundaries of His Word. Don't let Satan lead your hearts astray by seeking after many “schemes”!

“For this reason, I also suffer these things; nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Timothy 1:12). ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ