

Examine Yourself: A Call to Authentic Faith

*“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;
prove your own selves.”*

— 2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)

1. Final Warning (Verses 1–4)

- Paul’s third visit: emphasizes the principle that truth should be established by two or three witnesses (1.)
- Christ’s strength in weakness: Paul will not spare those still living in sin (v 4)

Application: God is patient, but there is a time for accountability.
His power is made perfect in weakness.

2. Examine Yourself (Verse 5–6)

- Self-examination is essential –to ensure Christ truly dwells in sin
- Failing the test means spiritual danger

Application: Take time regularly to reflect: *Am I bearing the fruit of Christ?* Is my faith active and alive?

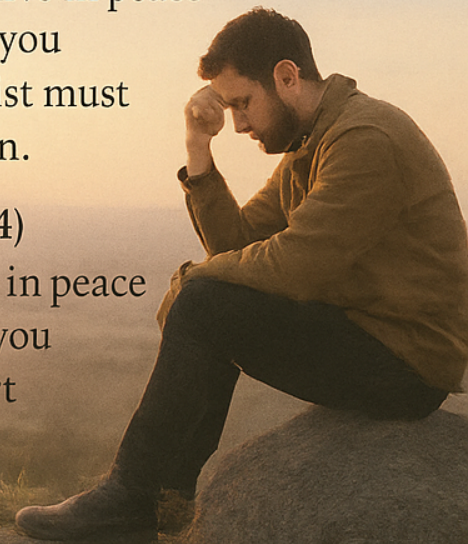
3. Restoration, Not Destruction (Verses 7–10)

- Paul prays the mature, be of one mind, live in peace
- The God of love and peace will be with you

Application: Leadership in the Body of Christ must aim to build up, not beat down.

✓ Final Encouragements (Verses 11–14)

- Rejoice, be mature, be of one mind, live in peace
- The God of love and peace will be with you
- Charge: Strive for unity— It’s God’s heart for His people





📖 Sermon Notes: 2 Corinthians Chapter 13

Title: “Examine Yourself: A Call to Authentic Faith”

Key Verse:

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” – 2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)

My cousin Bunny used to always tell me before she passed "2Ti 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

1. Final Warning (**Verses 1–4**)

- **Paul’s third visit:** Emphasizes the principle that truth should be established by two or three witnesses (v.1). (They confer and agree with each other. Amos 3:3 Can 2 walk together except they be agreed?)
- **He warns the unrepentant:** Paul will not spare those still living in sin (v.2).
- **Christ’s strength in weakness:** Though Jesus was crucified in weakness, He lives by the power of God—and Paul, too, walks in that same divine power (v.4). And you too if you are saved!

Application:

God is patient, but there is a time for accountability. His power is made perfect in weakness, and *we must not take grace for granted.*

“Taking grace for granted” means treating God’s unmerited favor — His forgiveness, mercy, and blessings — as if it were something cheap, automatic, or owed to us, instead of a precious gift that came at a great cost.

Here’s how it plays out:

1. Living Recklessly Without Repentance

When someone says, *“God will forgive me anyway,”* (*David’s son most likely said when he took advantage of his sister.*) and continues willfully in sin without conviction or change, they’re abusing grace. That’s not living in grace — that’s **exploiting it**.

Romans 6:1-2 – *“Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!”*

2. Losing Awe of the Cross

Grace isn’t just kindness — it’s blood-bought. When someone forgets the price Jesus paid, they may stop appreciating just how incredible God’s grace truly is.

3. Neglecting Gratitude and Obedience

If someone receives grace but doesn’t live a life of **thankfulness, humility, or obedience**, they’re essentially saying, *“Thanks for the gift, but I don’t owe you anything.”* That’s not relationship — that’s **spiritual entitlement**.

4. Blocking Others from Grace

Sometimes folks who’ve been forgiven forget to extend that grace to others. That’s taking grace for granted by acting like it’s only for *them*.

In Plain Talk:

It’s like being rescued from drowning, then turning your back on the lifeguard who saved you and jumping in again — not caring who it costs. Or you helped someone do something important in their lives and they don’t even acknowledge you in any way. Even the lepers thanked Jesus for their healing.

Final Word:

Grace is free — but it’s not cheap. Jesus paid everything for us to walk in freedom. So let’s honor it with how we live, how we forgive, and how we shine that grace onto others.

2. Examine Yourself (**Verse 5–6**)



- **Self-examination is essential:** Not just about “going to church,” but ensuring Christ truly dwells in you.
- **Failing the test** means spiritual danger.
- Paul hopes the Corinthians *will not be disqualified*.

Application:

Take time regularly to reflect: Am I bearing the fruit of Christ? Is my faith active and alive? Am I a talker and not a doer? This is not to doubt salvation—but to walk in sober truth.

3. Restoration, Not Destruction (Verses 7–10)

- Paul prays that they do *no evil*, not so he looks good—but so **truth wins**.
- Even if Paul appears weak, he’s okay with it, if the believers grow strong.
- His goal: **edification**, not tearing down.

Application:

Leadership in the Body of Christ must aim to build up, not beat down. God’s goal is always restoration, not humiliation.

4. Final Encouragements (Verse 11–14)

- **A farewell of unity:** Rejoice, be mature, be of one mind, live in peace and harmony. Stop the practice of Excommunication with one another like a Cult. You are brothers and sisters in Christ.
- **The God of love and peace will be with you.**
- **The benediction:** A beautiful Trinitarian blessing (v.14) — grace, love, and fellowship.

Application:

Let the love of the Father, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Spirit mark our daily walk. Strive for unity—it’s God’s heart for His people.

Sermon Wrap-Up

- ✓ **Challenge:** Are you in the faith?
- ✓ **Encouragement:** God desires your restoration.
- ✓ **Charge:** Walk in grace, peace, and truth.