



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 13:5-14
August 30, 2026

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. This week's text is about tests. R-read the passage as a whole. What 2 commands does Paul give in vss. 5-6? What exactly are they supposed to examine?
2. What is the expected answer Paul thinks he'll get from the church in v. 5? What does this say about the presence of Christ in Christians?
3. Read v. 11 and list out the 5 instructions Paul gives to this challenging church. What a healthy church this kind of living creates! Talk about how this looks in real life.
4. What does this passage (v. 14 in particular) teach us about God's nature as Trinity.

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

5. Why would Paul tell people who already profess to be Christians to "examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith"? What is the difference between healthy examination and unhealthy introspection?
6. On Sunday, we heard "Examine your life through the filter of Jesus' work for you, not yours for Him." How does the gospel keep self-examination from turning into either pride or despair?
7. Review the **bad** and **better** way of examine yourself. What is at stake in getting this right?
8. Are you secure in your relationship with God? Are you right in this assessment? Read 1 John 5:13 and 1 John 3:19–20. Where should Christians look when their feelings accuse or confuse them?
9. What does this text teach us about the goal of Christian correction and discipleship?

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

10. If you honestly examined your life today, where do you see evidence that Jesus Christ is in you? Share one area where God has changed your desires, attitudes, relationships, or actions.
11. Is there an area where you have been measuring your relationship with God primarily by feelings, religious activity, comparison with others, or past decisions rather than Christ and His Word? What would it look like to re-anchor yourself in the gospel?
12. Paul tells Christians to "aim for restoration." What part of your life currently feels disconnected from the lordship of Jesus? What would bringing that part of your life back under Christ look like this week?