

Do You Not Know Yourself?

In Revelation 3, Jesus addresses the congregation in Laodicea describing them as being Lukewarm. They were indifferent. He explains that the reason for their indifference was that they did not know themselves (Rev. 3.14-17). Lest we fall into the same condemnation, self-examination should always be a point of emphasis (2 Cor. 13.5). To make an accurate assessment, we are to compare ourselves to the same standard that God will use to judge us.

How do you examine yourself? Do you judge yourself by the morality and spirituality of others? Do you compare yourself to those who practice sexual immorality and think, “at least I am not like that.” Do you see others drinking and gambling and judge yourself righteous because you do not “*run with them in the same flood of dissipation*” (1 Pet. 4.4).

The Bible tells us that Christians are to be separate from the world (James 4.4; 2 Cor. 6.17,18; 1 John 2.16). However, using the behavior of the world and the people of the world as a standard by which you judge yourself is a mistake for two reasons. It encourages an attitude of pride. Jesus tells a parable of the Pharisee who prayed thanking God that he was “*not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector*” (Matt. 18.11). This was a man who compared himself to others, and was filled with pride, because he wasn’t like them. Yet by being puffed up with pride, he was no different (Luke 18.14).

It is also a mistake to compare yourself with others because you are using a faulty measurement. Paul writes that it would be unwise to compare his own accomplishment with the accomplishments of the other apostles (2 Cor. 10.12). Paul would not “*boast in another man’s sphere of accomplishments*” (2 Cor. 10.16). If he was going to be proud of his accomplishments, it would be because he did what the Lord wanted him to do and not because he did more than what the other apostles did (2 Cor. 10.17,18). Do you consider yourself righteous because you study more than some of your brethren? Do you think you are right with God because you pray more earnestly? Do you see yourself as being in the faith because you are more faithful in your attendance?

The behavior of others should never be the standard by which we judge ourselves. We can know ourselves not by comparing our faithfulness to others, but by comparing our lives to the same standard by which God will judge us – His word (Rev. 20.12)! CLP

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

July 5, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

Self-Discipline: The Path to Victory!

Life is a race. Today, we call it a rat race. But in Bible times, Paul likened life to the olympic style games. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul tells us to run the race to win. I am to run the race with such determination and focus that if there can only be one winner, I will make sure it is me (1 Cor. 9.24). How can I ensure that I will win the race? He goes on to explain that “*I discipline my body and bring it into subjection*” (1 Cor. 9.27). If I want to win the race, I must practice self-discipline.

There are actually two words in this passage that capture the idea of self-discipline. First, Paul uses the word “temperate” or “self-controlled” if you use the ESV (1 Cor. 9.25). It translates the Greek word “kratos” meaning “strong.” It has the word “en” in front of it. Literally, strong on the inside. To be self-controlled is to have inner strength. It is the strength to deny yourself and what you desire and follow the example and teachings of Jesus (cf. Luke 9.23).

The second word that is used is “disciple” found in verse 27. It combines a word that means “down” with a word that means “to strike.” Literally, it is to beat down. Paul writes that he beats down his body and brings it into subjection. To be disciplined, you force your body to behave by brute force.

When you use inner strength to force your body to do what it is required to do, you can know that on the day of Judgment, you will be crowned the winner (1 Cor. 9.27; 2 Tim. 2.5). CLP

MARRIAGE IS FROM THE BEGINNING

MATTHEW 19:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Much of the problem with Matthew 19 is that we fail to study these verses in context. (Matt. 19.12,14,23,24)
2. Twice in Matthew 19, Jesus describes God's intention for marriage "*from the beginning.*" [Read Matthew 19.1-12]

I. WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

- A. First question.
 1. **Matthew 19.3:** "*Then the Pharisees came to Him testing Him*" (cf. Matt. 15.9)
 2. **Matthew 19.3:** "*Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?*" (cf. Deut. 24.1)
 3. **Matthew 19.4-6:** Jesus takes them to the Bible.
- B. Second question.
 1. **Matthew 19.8:** "*Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?*"
 2. **Matthew 19.9:** Jesus takes them back to the beginning to show that this is not what God wanted. (cf. Matt. 5.20)
- C. A declaration.
 1. **Matthew 19.10:** "*If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.*"
 2. **Matthew 19.11,12:** This is hard to accept!

II. WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME?

- A. Lesson One: Let the Bible be your guide.
 1. **Matthew 19.4:** "*Have you not read*"
 2. **2 Timothy 3.16,17:** The Bible tells us what to believe and how to live.
- B. Lesson Two: Follow the biblical design.
 1. **Matthew 19.5:** Leave your parents.
 2. **Matthew 19.5:** Cleave to your spouse.
- C. Lesson Three: Develop a companionship.
 1. **Matthew 19.5:** "*the two shall become one flesh*"
 2. Are you stuck in your marriage or is there a bond between you and your spouse? (cf. 1 Pet. 3.1,7)

CONCLUSION: There will never be divorce if both husband and wife have the mind and heart of Jesus. (Phil. 2.5).

Working Out Your Own Salvation

Did you know that the Bible teaches us to save ourselves? At first glance, that is exactly what Paul seems to say when he tells the Philippians to "*work out your own salvation*" (Phil. 2.12). But before we draw that conclusion, we need to understand why Paul wrote this and what he meant.

Notice that the verse begins with the word "*therefore.*" Paul had just described the humility of Christ, who "*made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant*" (Phil. 2.7), and who "*humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death*" (Phil. 2.8). Because of that obedience, God highly exalted Him (Phil. 2.9). The "*therefore*" connects our own humble obedience to the example Christ. So when we come to verse 12, Paul is commanding them to continue the obedience "*not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence*" (Phil. 2.12). With that context in mind, how do we work out our own salvation?

First, we work out our salvation through consistent obedience. Paul commended the Philippians because they had "*always obeyed*" (Phil. 2.12). Salvation is not obtained through obeying the gospel and then living the way you always lived. It requires an ongoing life of obedience even if no one else is watching (Col. 3.23; Gal. 6.9). Are you the same Christian at home that you are at worship? Consistent obedience is the mark of someone who is truly working out his salvation.

Second, we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. The word translated as "fear" refers to a reverence that takes something seriously, not a paralyzing dread (Phil. 2.12). This is the opposite of casual Christianity. Peter tells us to conduct ourselves "*throughout the time of your stay here in fear*" (1 Pet. 1.17). We ought to take our walk with the Lord with the same seriousness that Christ took His path to the cross.

Third, we work out our salvation by depending on God's work in us. Paul immediately adds, "*for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*" (Phil. 2.13). The Greek word translated as "works" is *energeo*, from which we get our word "energy." It describes God's power actively at work in our lives. We are not left to save ourselves by our own strength. Instead, God supplies the strength while we supply the willingness (2 Cor. 12.9).

Salvation, then, is not something we earn on our own, nor is it something we receive passively. It is a partnership in which we obey, take our walk seriously, and rely on the God who works within us. That is what it means to work out your own salvation.

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