



Who Are You?

The Bible teaches us that a person's outward appearance does not always reveal the condition of the heart. A person may profess to know God while living in disobedience. A person may appear godly while lacking a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.

Paul warned the church about this danger.

“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

— Titus 1:16, KJV

Paul gave a similar warning when he described people in the last days as having “a form of godliness” while denying its power.

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

— 2 Timothy 3:5, KJV

These Scriptures challenge every believer to examine the difference between outward religion and genuine faith.

This Bible study is not intended to condemn anyone. Every person needs the grace of God. Romans 3:23 reminds us that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (KJV).



The purpose is self-examination.

We should ask ourselves an important question:

Who are you?

The question is not only about our name, occupation, family, ministry, or position. The deeper question is this:

Who are you when you stand before Jesus Christ?

1. Who Are You When Nobody Is Watching?

In everyday life, people often introduce themselves by describing what they do. A person may identify themselves by a profession, family role, accomplishments, or ministry.

Christians also have an identity in Jesus Christ. We are called to follow Him, represent Him, and live according to His Word.

However, our true character becomes especially visible when nobody else is watching.

What do we do during private moments?

What occupies our thoughts?

How do we spend our free time?

What do we watch, listen to, and pursue?

God sees both our public and our private lives.

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

— Proverbs 15:3, KJV

Nothing is hidden from God. God sees our choices, thoughts, struggles, and motives.

Psalms 139:1–3 gives us a beautiful reminder of God's complete knowledge of us:

“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.”

— Psalm 139:1–3, NASB

God knows us completely.



This truth should not only make us careful; it should also draw us closer to Him. We can pray honestly because God already knows what is in our hearts. We can confess our struggles because He already sees them. We can ask for transformation because God knows exactly what needs to change.

Life Reflection

Take a few moments to honestly examine your private life. Consider whether your choices, thoughts, entertainment, conversations, and habits reflect the person you profess to be in Christ.

Instead of allowing the knowledge that God sees everything to produce fear or shame, allow it to draw you into greater honesty with Him. Bring your struggles to Jesus and invite Him to transform the areas of your life that need His touch.

What do my private choices reveal about the condition of my heart?

Are there areas of my life I would be uncomfortable bringing before Jesus?

How can I become more intentional about inviting God into my private thoughts and decisions?

What is one area where I need to ask Jesus for transformation?

A Warning About the Heart

Judas Iscariot spent years with Jesus and the other disciples. Judas witnessed Jesus' ministry and experienced moments many people would have considered extraordinary.

Yet Judas gradually let his heart drift away from Jesus.

John 12:6 reveals that Judas was concerned about money and eventually betrayed Jesus for financial gain. Judas's story reminds us that proximity to spiritual things does not automatically produce spiritual transformation.

A person can hear the Word without obeying it.

A person can be surrounded by believers without developing a personal relationship with Jesus.

A person can participate in ministry while allowing hidden areas of the heart to grow distant from God.

The question is not simply, **“Do I know about Jesus?”**



The question is, **“Am I walking with Jesus?”**

A genuine relationship with Christ produces obedience.

Prayer should become more than an obligation. Prayer should become a desire to communicate with Jesus.

Bible study should become more than gaining information. The Word of God should shape our thoughts, character, and actions.

Faithfulness should continue during difficult seasons. It is easy to worship when circumstances are favorable. True faithfulness becomes visible when obedience is costly.

God sees the quiet acts of obedience that other people never notice.

God also sees the private compromises others never see.

Therefore, we should examine ourselves daily.

Life Reflection

Ask God to reveal any area where spiritual activity has replaced genuine relationship. Make time not only to read the Word and pray, but to respond to what God is showing you.

Choose one simple act of obedience today that may go unnoticed by everyone else but is seen by God.

1. Am I developing a relationship with Jesus, or am I primarily involved in religious activities?
2. Is there an area where I know what God’s Word says but am struggling to obey?
3. What does my prayer life reveal about my relationship with Jesus?
4. How do I respond when obedience becomes difficult or costly?

Who Are You When the Church Service Is Over?

A church service gives us an opportunity to worship God together. We lift our hands, sing, pray, hear the Word, and respond to God's presence.

However, our Christian life does not end when the service ends.

When the music stops, who are we?

When we leave the church building, who are we?



Who are we at home?

Who are we at work?

Who are we with our friends?

Who are we when we are surrounded by people who do not share our faith?

Jesus calls us to follow Him every day.

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

— Luke 9:23, KJV

Following Jesus requires daily surrender.

Christianity is not a temporary identity that we put on during a church service. Jesus Christ should shape every area of our lives.

Our words should reflect Christ.

Our attitudes should reflect Christ.

Our relationships should reflect Christ.

Our decisions should reflect Christ.

Our conduct should reflect Christ.

Our private life should reflect Christ.

The goal is not to create a perfect public image. The goal is to become more like Jesus.



Life Application

Consider what happens in your life between church services. Ask God to help you carry what you experience in His presence into your home, workplace, relationships, and everyday decisions.

Choose one area of your daily life where you can intentionally reflect Christ more clearly this week.

1. Is there a difference between who I am at church and who I am during the rest of the week?

2. How do my words and attitudes reflect Christ at home and at work?
3. What does “taking up my cross daily” look like in my life right now?
4. What area of my everyday life most needs to be surrendered to Jesus? What is one practical change you could make to protect your spiritual hunger?

The Danger of Outward Religion

A person can become active in church and still neglect a personal relationship with Jesus.

A person can attend services regularly, participate in ministry, give faithfully, and know many Bible verses while becoming spiritually distant from God.

These activities are valuable when they flow from a genuine relationship with Christ. However, activity alone cannot replace intimacy with Jesus.

The rich young ruler provides an important example.

In Mark 10:17–22, a man approached Jesus and asked what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. He told Jesus that he had kept the commandments from his youth.

Jesus looked at him and loved him. Then Jesus challenged him to surrender the possession that had become most important to him.

The man became deeply saddened and walked away because he had many possessions.

The issue was not simply his wealth. **Jesus exposed what held his heart.**

The story challenges us to ask:

What am I unwilling to surrender to Jesus?

Is there a habit?

Is there an attitude?

Is there bitterness?

Is there unforgiveness?

Is there jealousy?

Is there pride?

Is there a desire that has become more important than obedience to Christ?

Following Jesus requires us to surrender every area of our lives.



Life Reflection

Ask Jesus to show you anything that has become more important to you than obedience to Him. Be honest about what you are holding onto.

Surrender is not always easy, but Jesus is not asking us to surrender something because He wants to diminish our lives. He is calling us to trust Him with every part of our lives.

1. What is the first thing that comes to mind when I ask, “What am I unwilling to surrender to Jesus?”
2. Is there a habit, attitude, relationship, possession, or desire competing with my devotion to Christ?
3. What would genuine surrender look like in this area?
4. What might God be asking me to release so I can follow Him more fully?

1.

3. Who Are You Before Jesus?

The most important question is not how others see us, but how Jesus sees us.

Paul instructed the Corinthian church:

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”

— 2 Corinthians 13:5, NASB

Self-examination is part of Christian growth.

Am I still walking closely with Jesus?

Am I obeying His Word?

Am I still faithful when the answer to prayer is delayed?

Am I still thankful when circumstances are difficult?

Am I allowing God to change my heart?

Does my private life agree with my public confession?



Matthew 7:21–23 gives one of the most sobering warnings from the words of Jesus:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

These verses remind us that spiritual activity is not the same as spiritual relationship.

Some people will point to their religious activities and accomplishments, yet Jesus will tell them that He never knew them.

Jesus is looking for people who know Him and obey Him.

Our goal should never be to impress people with our spirituality. Our goal is to know Jesus and become more like Him.

Life Reflection

Make self-examination a regular part of your walk with God. Rather than comparing yourself with other believers, allow the Word of God to examine your heart.

Ask Jesus to show you where you are growing, where you are struggling, and where you need to surrender.

1. If Jesus examined my heart today, what would He find?
2. Am I more concerned with appearing spiritual or with knowing Jesus?
3. Is my private life consistent with my public confession of faith?
4. What is one area where God may be asking me to grow in obedience?

We Are Christ's Letter

Paul gave the church another powerful picture of Christian identity:

“You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all people; revealing yourselves, that you are a letter of Christ.”

— 2 Corinthians 3:2–3, NASB

People are watching our lives.



Our neighbors may not read the Bible, but they may observe our behavior.

Our coworkers may not attend church, but they may notice how we treat people.

Our family members may not understand our faith, but they can see whether our faith changes us.

Our lives should point people toward Jesus.

When we have opportunities to encourage others, let us encourage them.

When we can show kindness, let us show kindness.

When we are tempted to complain, let us choose words that bring grace and wisdom.

When someone hurts us, let us remember the forgiveness we have received from Christ.

The world needs to see genuine Christianity through transformed lives.

Life Reflection

Think about the people who regularly encounter you—your family, coworkers, friends, neighbors, and fellow believers. Consider what your life may be communicating about Jesus to them.

Look for one opportunity this week to intentionally demonstrate Christ's love through encouragement, kindness, forgiveness, patience, or grace.

1. What does my life communicate about Jesus to the people around me?
2. How do I respond when someone disappoints, frustrates, or hurts me?
3. Do my words and actions make it easier or more difficult for others to see Jesus?
4. Who is one person I can intentionally encourage or serve this week?

Jesus Still Calls Us to Repentance

Self-examination should never leave us without hope.

The same Jesus who calls us to examine ourselves is the Jesus who offers mercy.

If we discover that our prayer life has become weak, we can pray again.

If we have neglected the Word of God, we can return to the Scriptures.

If our hearts have become bitter, we can ask Jesus to transform us.



If we have compromised, we can repent.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

— 1 John 1:9, NASB

Jesus does not expose our hearts to destroy us. He exposes what needs to change so He can transform us.

God's conviction is an invitation to return.

God's mercy gives us another opportunity to walk with Him.

God's grace enables us to begin again.

Life Reflection

Do not allow conviction to become condemnation. When God reveals something that needs to change, respond to Him with humility and repentance.

Return to prayer. Return to the Word. Return to obedience. Receive God's mercy and allow His grace to help you move forward.

1. Is there anything God has been bringing to my attention that I need to surrender or repent of?
2. Have I allowed guilt or shame to keep me from coming honestly before Jesus?
3. What step can I take today to return to greater intimacy with God?
4. How does God's mercy give me hope for change?

So, who are you?

Who are you when nobody is watching?

Who are you when the church service is over?

Who are you before Jesus?

Our identity should be rooted in Christ.

Our faith should be genuine.

Our obedience should continue beyond the church building.



Our relationship with Jesus should be more important than our public image.

Let us examine our hearts regularly.

Let us seek Jesus daily.

Let us remain faithful when life is difficult.

Let us surrender what needs to be surrendered.

Let us allow the Word of God to transform our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

The Christian life is not about appearing perfect. The Christian life is about continually following Jesus.

We have been washed, sanctified, and justified through Jesus Christ.

“But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

— 1 Corinthians 6:11, NASB

Jesus knows who we are.

Jesus sees our public and our private life.

Jesus knows our strengths and our weaknesses.

Jesus sees where we are today, but He also sees what we can become through His grace.

So let us come before Him with humility and ask:

“Jesus, search my heart. Show me who I really am before You. Change what needs to be changed, and help me follow You every day.”

Life Reflection

Take a few quiet moments before God. Ask Him to search your heart—not so you can condemn yourself, but so you can draw closer to Him.

Who am I before Jesus?

What is He asking me to surrender?

Where is He calling me to grow?



What would it look like for my faith to become more genuine in my everyday life?
Then respond to what He shows you with prayer, repentance, obedience, and faith.

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